APRIL 25, 1964 VOL. CCLVII. NO. 3334

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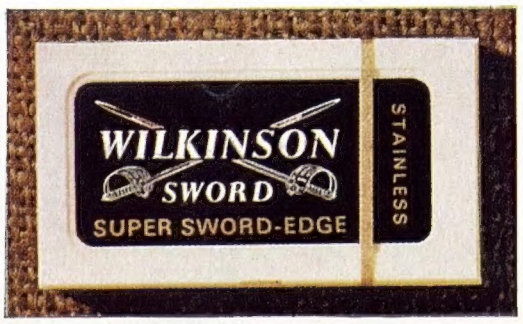

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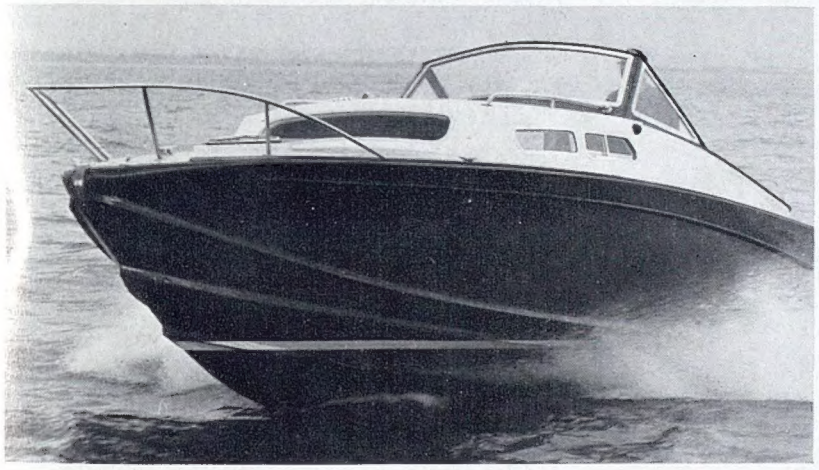

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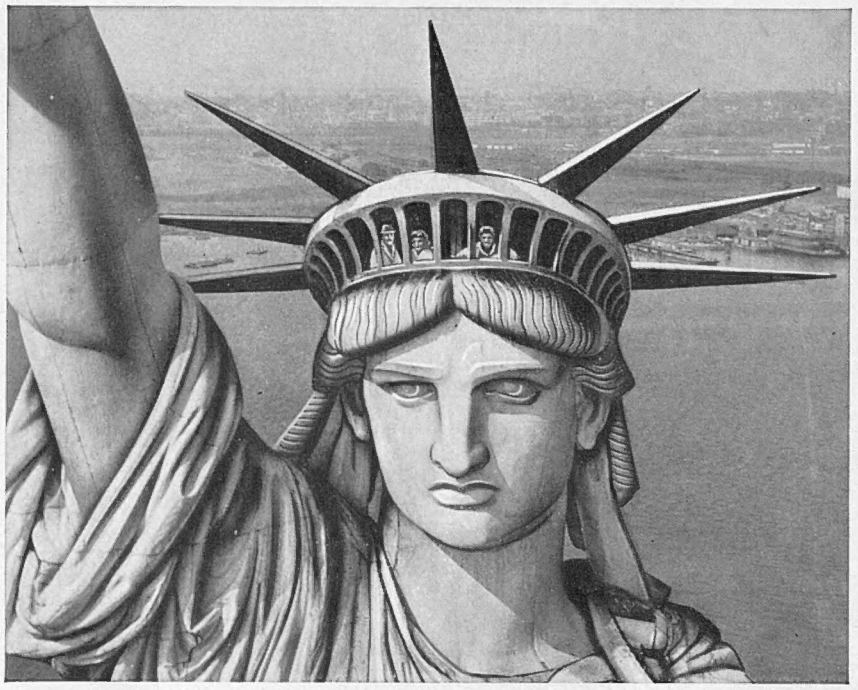

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Volume CCLVII. No. 3334 LONDON, April 25, 1964

THE SPHERE

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President Johnson munches popcorn as he watches the opening baseball game of the season in Washington. With him is Mr John W. McCormack, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President had pitched the first ball to inaugurate the season. Another of his engagements last week was to speak in support of the nationwide appeal for funds to move, stone by stone, the blitzed church of St. Mary Aldermanbury in the City of London to Fulton, Missouri, as a memorial to Sir Winston Churchill. He made his " Iron Curtain " speech there in 1946 (see also pages 118-119). This week President Johnson was to attend the opening of the New York World's Fair (see pages 114-115)

POPCORN FOR THE PRESIDENT

NEWS SUMMARY

Budget and by-elections in Britain; tensions increase in Southern Rhodesia

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GREAT BRITAIN

Mr Maudling's uninspired Budget (main item—increases in taxes on drink and tobacco) produced a dull debate in the House of Commons last week. Outside the House experts were divided as to whether the Chancellor's measures would keep the economy healthy up to election time in the autumn.

The postponement of the general election until, probably, October, has raised the question of by-elections. There are eight seats vacant. Six were held by Conservatives and two by Labour members. The party which held the seat has the right to decide the timing of the by-election. There seemed no doubt in Parliamentary circles early this week that Mr Wilson would in due course move for writs for the two Labour-held seats for dates within the next three months. For some time it has been known the Government would prefer not to have contests for its six seats (some of which are marginal) but wait for the general election. If the Government maintains this view, Labour backbenchers might move the writs for the six Conservative seats. The Government might then find itself in the position of having to vote them down, and face the inevitable charges of running away from the fight.

Repercussions were expected in Parliament to the finding of the Public Accounts Committee that the estimated Ferranti profit of about £4·5 million on the Bloodhound Mark I was "excessive." The matter was brought to light by the office of the Auditor-General, but the main concern for many MPs was not this particular case, but the whole question of the control of government contracts.

The threatened one-day strike by Post Office workers for April 16 was called off at the last moment. The executive of the Union of Post Office Workers accepted the Chancellor of the Exchequer's offer of a committee of inquiry into the dispute which led to the threat of a strike and ban on overtime. Another committee of inquiry reported last week. It was under the chairmanship of Professor E. H. Phelps Brown, and had investigated the pay and conditions of London Transport's 32,500 bus drivers and conductors. It recommended substantial pay increases and other improvements. This will almost certainly mean higher fares.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the Illinois Presidential primary, Senator Barry Goldwater, the right-wing Republican, mustered only 65 per cent. of the votes instead of the 80 per cent. that had been forecast for him. It is thought that more than 150,000 Republicans were so apathetic that they voted for no one. Of the votes that were cast, 25 per cent. went to Mrs Margaret Chase Smith. In the write-in list Mr Henry Cabot Lodge topped the poll, thus indicating that his New Hampshire success was no freak.

BELGIUM

The Belgian doctors' strike ended last week after 18 days, and by Monday of this week the medical services were getting back to normal. Most of the doctors who had been called-up during the emergency were demobilised. An agreement was reached in the early hours of last Saturday, when it was decided to resume negotiations between the Government and the doctors. The strike had been called by the doctors in protest against a proposed new Health Service and scale of medical charges.

NETHERLANDS

Princess Irene of the Netherlands is to marry Don Carlos, son of a pretender to the Spanish throne, in Rome on April 29. The Dutch Royal Family announced that they would not attend the wedding. No reason was given, but it was understood in The Hague that the Dutch Government did not wish to become involved in any political demonstration which might accompany the wedding. The Princess's engagement and conversion to Roman Catholicism have caused a political storm in the Netherlands. The Lower House of the Dutch Parliament gave unanimous support to the Government in its decision not to take responsibility for the actions of Princess Irene.

CYPRUS

The United Nations began its fourth week of peace-keeping duties in Cyprus with agreement between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots seeming as remote as ever. There was general relief during last week when General Grivas the former Eoka leader announced that the time was "not ripe" for him to return to the island. The UN mediator Mr Tuomioja had talks in Ankara with the Turkish Prime Minister Mr Inönü, but they were said to have reached no arrangement at all. Archbishop Makarios offered to allow all the strongpoints in the Nicosia and Kyrenia areas to be taken over by UN troops, providing the Turkish-Cypriots do the same. Diplomatic quarters in Nicosia were not hopeful of the Turks accepting the plan.

LIBYA

Talks on the future of the British military bases at Tripoli and Benghazi began at Baida on Monday. At this review of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty of 1953, Mr R. F. G. Sarell, the British Ambassador to Libya, was the British representative. Last month the Libyan Parliament approved in principle a resolution calling for an end to the treaties with Britain and America, under which military bases are maintained.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

By the end of last week nearly 300 arrests had been made in Salisbury after two days of disturbances caused by the restriction order on Mr Joshua Nkomo, the African Nationalist leader. On Friday more than 90 African women were arrested in Salisbury after a march through the city to the offices of the British High Commissioner, Mr J. B. Johnston. The procession was good natured, but many of the women were intent on forcing the police to arrest them. On Saturday there were further arrests following a sudden assault by Africans on European women shopping in a supermarket. Fears grew that African Nationalists would try to force a general strike, and on Monday buses bringing Africans into the city to work were stoned. Extra squads of police had to be sent in to act as escorts. Mr Ian Smith, the new Prime Minister, again rejected a request by the leader of the opposition, Sir Edgar Whitehead, to recall Parliament. He was believed to have asked the British Government if he can attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in July (see also The Voice of the Commonwealth, page 122).

Above: Greek-Cypriot irregulars dismantle sandbag fortifications outside the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia. They took down the barricade after a visit by President Makarios and United Nations representatives

ARGENTINA

To relieve a current shortage of beef, the Government announced last week that the sale of beef in restaurants throughout the country would be banned for two days in each week. The Economy Minister, Dr Eugenio Blanco, said that restrictions on sales from butchers' shops were not contemplated, though there would be efforts to fix maximum prices. The people have been warned that they must eat less beef or their export trade would suffer.

LAOS

It was reported from Vientiane last Sunday that a right-wing group of Army officers had staged a coup and overthrown the neutralist government of Prince Souvanna Phouma. As is usually the case with events in Laos, there was considerable confusion about what was really happening. On Monday morning contradictory information came from nearby countries. One source stated the coup had collapsed and Prince Souvanna had been released from the house arrest to which he had been subjected. But another source had the Army officers still in control.

Above: Soviet marshals, among them veterans of the war, are received by Mr Khrushchev in the Kremlin on his 70th birthday. Second from left is Marshal Malinovsky, Defence Minister. At right in front is Marshal Voroshilov, with Marshal Timoshenko behind him. Leaders from all European satellites were in Moscow. A few days before the birthday a world-wide sensation was caused by a false report that Mr Khrushchev was dead

Left: Police vans are parked outside the Cochin Hospital in Paris on the day after President de Gaulle had a prostate operation there. Last Monday the 73-year-old President was reported to be continuing to make a good recovery

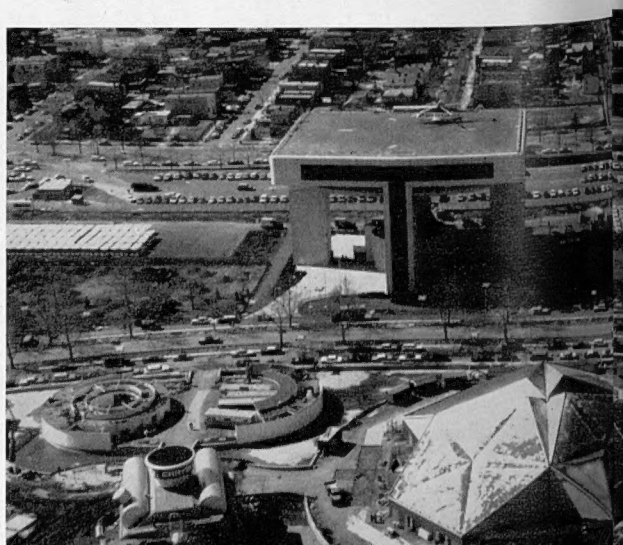
Left below: In Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, after the restriction order on Joshua Nkomo, excited African women march through the City

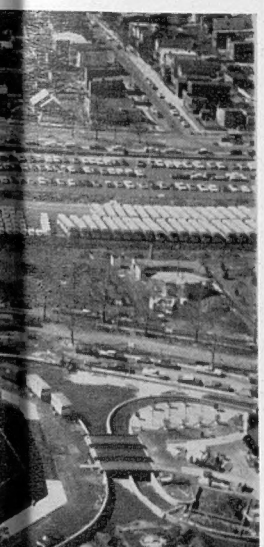
Above: The Duchess of Gloucester and the Mayor of Southwark (Councillor Mrs K. Gunn) walk in procession to Southwark Cathedral, London, for a service to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth (see special articles pp. 125-133)

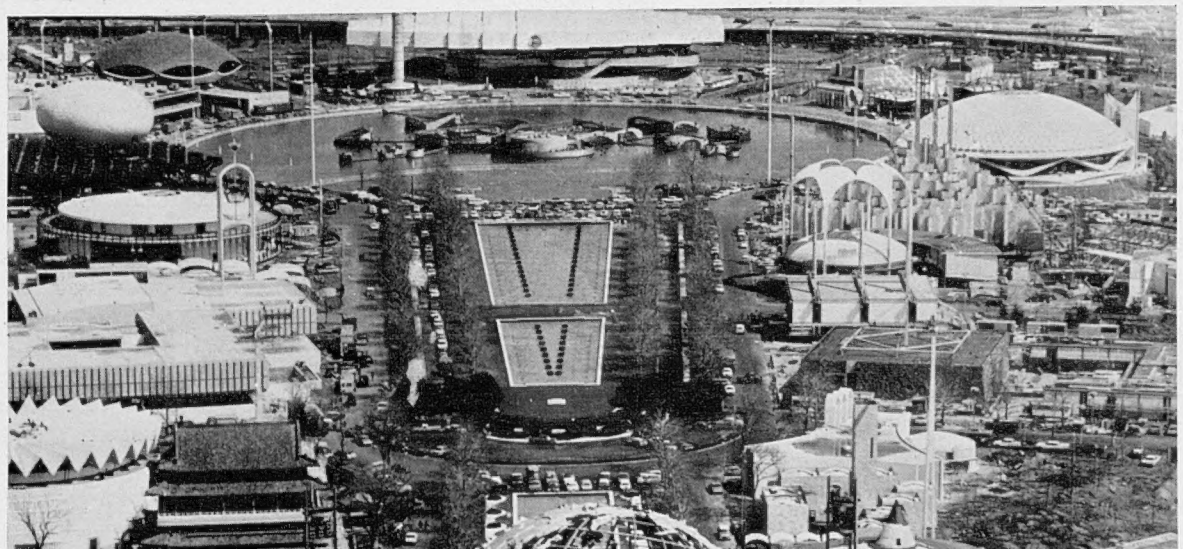
"PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING"

Above: A passenger looks out from a sightseeing helicopter flight over the New York World's Fair
Right: A view of the table-shaped helicopter port which has been specially constructed for the World's Fair

The pictures on these pages were taken during the final preparations for the World's Fair in New York. It was to open at Flushing Meadow, Long Island, on April 22. About 80 nations are represented and the 175 pavilions are spread over 646 acres on a site ten miles from the centre of Manhattan. The exhibits, set amid gardens and fountains, include educational, industrial, national and cultural displays. Some of the world's greatest works of art have been loaned for exhibition. Among them is Michelangelo's "Pietà", which has been allowed to leave St. Peter's, Rome, for the first time since it was placed there in 1499. The modern symbol of the Fair is a huge stainless steel openwork globe called the "Unisphere," which is said to represent "a shrinking globe in an expanding universe," and embodies the theme of the Fair—"Peace through Understanding." One of the facilities for visitors is a helicopter service which takes them on sightseeing tours above the grounds.







Above: The aerial photograph of Flushing Bay shows the newly constructed Marina for the World's Fair. From it special hydrofoil boats will make the journey to Manhattan in a matter of minutes. In the Marina models of old whaling schooners will be exhibited and so will the replica of H.M.S. *Bounty* (beyond the far wharf), built for the film *Mutiny on the Bounty*. On the right are new highways to facilitate the Fair traffic

Left: A view of the "Unisphere" and the surrounding pavilions of exhibitors

THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

116 Geneva might be called conference-prone. There are seldom less than two or three international meetings of minds going on there, and many of them are never heard of again when they adjourn. But one which started four weeks ago and is now in the committee stage could be among the most important of them all: the Conference on Trade and Development, convened by the United Nations and attended by delegates from more than 120 countries.

This conference is remarkable because it has brought together representatives of almost every country in the world (with the sizeable exception of Communist China) and is discussing the most important problem in the world —the gap which exists between rich nations and poor nations.

The gap between the highly developed countries and those in various stages of development has for long been recognised, and it is also recognised that this gap increases, in spite of all the financial and technical aid that has been given by the rich to the poor. The reason is not far to seek. However much capital is ploughed into a country to develop industries, there can be no long term yield unless the new industries can find markets in developed countries. But most of these protect their own industries by tariffs and quotas.

The Geneva Conference is a determined attempt to find a way of breaking this vicious circle, but it is unlikely to do so in the three months or so of its life. What is interesting is that it has cleared the ground by throwing out quite a few pre-conceived ideas, and it has clarified the positions of many of its participants.

The conference has revealed four main attitudes, taken up by roughly equal bodies of participants, in terms of population or economic standing. There is first the large group of developing nations, with the greatest population, but the least economic means. It might be expected that the developed nations, roughly equivalent in population, but far greater in economic resources, would form a clearly defined group. What has emerged is that the developed nations have fallen into three groups, all with differing attitudes, so that the discussion has been a quadrilateral.

The developing countries are homogeneous, as far as this conference is concerned. They want help from their richer neighbours to develop, and they want it to include markets for their goods—trade as well as aid. This is a simple aspiration, but its implementation becomes complicated in the light of the groupings of developed nations.

The Soviet Union strongly sponsored this conference when it was first proposed, about two years ago, and claims to have initiated it—although this claim is disputed by some of the developing countries which had already proposed it. The Soviet attitude has, however, been somewhat ambivalent, and very little has been said by the Soviet delegate. It is fairly clear that, in promoting this conference, the Soviet leaders were hoping to expand their own trade. Meanwhile, it has become more and more evident that the Soviet Bloc depends for its own further development on trade with the industrialised West, and has very little margin for trade with the developing countries of Asia, Africa or Latin America.

In fact, the Soviet Bloc does very little trade with Afro-Asian countries. About one-third of all world trade is carried on between the non-communist developed countries and the developing countries. The percentage ought to be higher—and that is what this Geneva conference is about. But the proportion of world trade which is carried on between developing countries and the Soviet Bloc is only 3 per cent. This trade is more or less self-balancing, so that the developing countries get no foreign exchange reserves from it.

Mr Heath (right), President of the Board of Trade, welcomes Mr Patolichev (second from left), Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, leading a delegation for talks in London. Left is the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Soldatov

The Soviet delegate announced, as his only contribution to the main debate, that Russia would abolish tariffs on goods from developing countries, but this meant virtually nothing at all. Soviet trade is carried on by State trading organisations on an *ad hoc* basis. Import duties are levied by one State organisation and paid by another, so that they are notional: Peter pays Paul. What matters to people who try to sell to the Soviet Union is the negotiated price and terms of sale in each case.

One thing the Soviet Government had in mind when it promoted this conference was to undermine the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) which it has always opposed. It can be said against GATT that it is a rich man's club, in the sense that its function is to regulate conditions of trade among highly developed and freely trading economies. Some of the delegates from less developed countries have asked for the abolition of GATT and the creation of a world-wide trading organisation in its place. Mr Heath, who made an important and well-timed speech, defended GATT within its context and helped to get the conference down to serious business. He admitted, however, that there is a case for reorganising GATT.

The attitude to GATT is one of the dividing lines between the other two groups: the Common Market countries on one side, and Britain, the United States, the EFTA members and many Commonwealth countries on the other. The latter group want the " Kennedy Round " (calling for an all-round reduction of tariffs by 50 per cent.) to be accepted more or less *in toto* at the GATT conference which starts in Geneva on May 4.

The fourth group in this tangle, the Common Market, is less clear about the Kennedy Round. France, in particular, will expect to be made an exception to some of the tariff cuts. A French proposal to assist the developing countries by raising the prices of primary products under some international guarantee has found little support. Britain, the biggest importer of primary products, would pay most heavily for the scheme, and French wheat-growers would be among the beneficiaries.

The Common Market countries import more from the developing countries than the Soviet Bloc, but it is still only 2 per cent. of their imports of manufactured goods. The corresponding figure for the United States is nearly 9 per cent., and for Britain 13 per cent. So there are great discrepancies between the three groups. The Soviet Bloc balances its trade with the developing countries. The Common Market offers only a small market. Britain and America offer by far the biggest markets and want to expand them, but it will be difficult to do this until the other two groups begin to open up their markets to the developing countries.

A complicating factor is that the Soviet Bloc is going through a difficult period economically, mainly through its agricultural failures, and has virtually no foreign exchange margin to play with. Similarly, the Common Market has serious inflationary problems, and the measures agreed last week in Brussels to cope with these are restrictive in the short term. Nevertheless, the problem of reducing the gap between rich and poor is too basic—and potentially dangerous—not to be solved. The Geneva Conference has made a start. **George Gretton**

MEETINGS AND PARADES

Above: In New York, King Hussein of Jordan meets the UN Secretary-General, U Thant, at the UN Headquarters during his visit to the USA
Left: In Damascus, the Syrian Prime Minister, Major-General Amin al Hafiz, takes the salute at a military parade. Last week the Government crushed an armed revolt in central Syria
Below left: In Beersheba, the 16th anniversary of Israel's Independence is celebrated with a youthful military parade
Below: Among those watching the parade was the former Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion; sitting below him, with eye patch, is the Minister of Agriculture, Moshe Dayan, the former Chief of Staff

THE FINEST HOURS

118 On April 29 the Duke of Edinburgh will attend at the Festival Hall in London the world premiere of *The Finest Hours*, a film lasting two hours based on Sir Winston Churchill's memoirs of the Second World War. On the following day it will open at the Columbia Theatre in the West End. An introductory section deals with Churchill in his early life, in World War I and up to 1939. But the bulk of the film is composed of actualities of the Second World War and its aftermath. Watching the drama unfold from the sombre panorama of 1940 to the banishment of darkness in 1945 and hearing again the voice of surpassing resolve, hearts will be stirred in all those who had the proud prerogative of serving under Churchill's leadership, and the younger generation will recognise still more the titan nature of his stature.

Above: Aboard H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* during the voyage to the west Atlantic to sign the Atlantic Charter. A shot from the film *The Finest Hours* which is produced by Jack le Vien

Right: The siren suit was Churchill's wartime uniform and the sombrero a favourite hat

Far right above: The Prime Minister with President Roosevelt after they had signed the Atlantic Charter, which was to be the basis of the Anglo-American alliance

Far right below: Churchill during a wartime visit to Moscow with Stalin and Molotov, then Soviet Foreign Minister

b

A LONDON NEWSLETTER

13-15, John Adam Street, London, WC2

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The long Parliament

The length of a Parliament was fixed in 1911 as five years, not four or four-and-a-half. The fact that the full term has been a rarity is no excuse for crying shame. The Premier was very wise to end the uncertainty which was becoming both tiresome and deterrent to progress. He removed the only possible charge of party-political trickery by announcing the date before the local government election results were known. It would not occur to the disappointed Opposition parties that the Premier, as statesman and patriot, might genuinely believe that the nation's interests would best be served by another spell of Tory administration! Of course, the Opposition parties were bitterly disappointed. There is such a thing as being overtrained. Labour was trained for the boat race to take place in June. It will be difficult for their coaches to prolong the agony for three more months so as to bring the crew to the stake boat in October, as exactly fit and confident as June would have found them. The fact that MPs will have to postpone increases in their pay-packets for three months longer may also cause despondency. The Tories were not trained for a June race and have six valuable months in which to improve starts, pull more together and gain experience for their stroke and cox. Discounting charges of party-political manoeuvres, the Premier's decision should benefit the country. In an uncertain world, it is quite an asset to be assured of a Government stable for half a year; and an October election also justifies the taking of decisions at a Commonwealth Premiers' Conference. It is difficult to argue that Britain must select an election date which does not clash with that of a foreign power. A General or Presidential Election may for a time cause statesmen to concentrate on domestic issues, but does not imply that Cabinets and Presidents, even for a day, resign their trusteeship for their countries' interests in international affairs.

Words, words

It used to be said that the rustic Englishman goes through life with a vocabulary of 500 words. Mr C. K. Ogden's *Basic English* concedes 850 words necessary for a man to make himself understood. The rustic, for one reason and another, no longer exists, and it is odd to observe that the average product of advanced state education is a good deal more economical of words than the ancient rustic. When caught by the TV interviewer, he manages to express his thoughts on every conceivable subject with half a dozen basic words or phrases, which include "I mean," "well," "you know," "definitely," "what?" Many a baby of three years old (or under) manages to express his desires more grammatically and clearly with a single word: "More." Our language certainly must be enriched and preserved constantly, if it is to remain a live language. In government and bureaucratic circles there are erudite men constantly engaged on modernisation and enlargement. Some think they do it very badly. To them we owe such jargon as "a psychological imbalance verging on delinquency" or "The cessation of house-building operated over a period of five years" (as an excellent substitute for "no houses were built for five years"). Sir Ernest Gowers supplies endless examples of pudder or gobbledegook and does not fail to trounce the "improvement" of a simple word like "face" by "face up to" or the exploitation of "a vicious circle of interdependent bottlenecks." Shakespeare, born some time in April 400 years ago and today in the news, found, when he began to write, a small and efficient vocabulary and instantly began to enlarge it. He did it much better than do modern statesmen and bureaucrats. For my part, I write and speak a terrible number of words every day and should use many more, if I had any idea of their meaning, but I never dare use such words as "esoteric" or "ambivalent" or "ultra montane" (which may mean pro-Pope or anti-Pope according to whether you live north or south of the Alps) or "vesicate" which is another way of "raising a bunion on your Spanish onion." To be on the safe side, I probably employ only about 4,000 of the 30,000 words offered me by the Concise Oxford Dictionary. Quite enough, too.

A very reforming Chancellor

It is generally assumed that, if Labour triumphs at the election, Lord Gardiner will be Lord Chancellor. He seems to possess all the qualifications. His knowledge of the Law is said to equal Haldane's; his industry and ability, his integrity, his wide range of experience in many fields, his elegance, are accepted on all hands. If he has a fault, it is that he is difficult to know and makes people tongue-tied or shy. Not a serious fault in a Lord Chancellor who sits on the Woolsack in a talking shop. It is said that if he attains this high office, he will shatter our complicated and outworn legal system and remould it nearer to the heart's desire; and first to fall will be capital punishment. He will initiate a commission constantly to keep the new, simplified and revised code up to date, will ensure that every occupant of the humblest Bench has some legal education and experience of penal conditions, will reconstitute the Court of Criminal Appeal and tidy up the loose ends and old junk in company law, revenue and land registration procedures. All these matters will take time before he is elected to the short list of LC's whose reforms of our legal system were outstanding. In comparatively modern times, Brougham, without much legal knowledge, did much in a short time. Halsbury completed his famous *Digest* over many years. Birkenhead worked quickly and his fame as LC probably, in the estimation of many, rests on his *Law of Property Act*, which was passed in 1922 and was a gigantic piece of legislation.

Above: Three delegates to the Wider Episcopal Fellowship Conference at Canterbury are, from left: Father P. Verghese of the Syrian Orthodox Church of South India, Bishop Pasco of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church, and Archbishop Wright of Algoma
Right: Dr Israel Brodie, the Commonwealth's Chief Rabbi, with his wife on arrival in London after a visit to Israel
Far right: A view showing progress on the new Severn bridge between Beachley and Aust, Glos.

The truth about Shakespeare

The Bard of Avon has been crowned by the nations, as he well deserved to be, on the reputed 400th anniversary of his birth, in his home town—and elsewhere. It is odd that we know very much less about his life and character than we know about many great men who lived centuries before his birth, back beyond the dark ages. George III said of his works (at a time when interest in them was still tardily reviving), "Sad stuff—but we mustn't say so." Today, certainly, we would not dare to say so. We must all make a show of knowing his works backwards and pretend to a daily study of them. I don't know whether

AEROFILMS PHOTOGRAPH

an anniversary birthday celebration based on pure guesswork calls for a special show of truth in the inward man. But truth should always prevail. You and I should examine our consciences and come clean about Shakespeare. Can you, gentle reader, swear that you have read every line of *Coriolanus*, *Pericles*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Timon* and *Troilus*? Can you fit every named character in even the best known and loved plays into his appropriate chapter and verse? I doubt it. I comfort myself with the thought that his work makes up so vast and nourishing a curate's egg that I can make a luscious and delicious meal any day on the "excellent parts" of it with which I am familiar. But I confess that I would not care to stand for an examination on the whole corpus of the poet's work to graduate as a Shakespearian scholar.

Came the sun

To my mind the most important event in southern England since Good Friday occurred on April 5. The sun came out, and everyone suddenly burst out singing. I hope that "the singing will never be done." But it will dry up soon enough. The official forecasters admitted they were surprised, but pleaded that they knew it would happen—some day! South-eastern England has been Britain's weather black spot for some years, and it is surprising that that fact has not halted the drift to the south-east. During the late miseries of weather in this area, the sun shone in splendour very consistently round Inverness, and those who in recent years have been lured from the north by the mildness of Bournemouth and its environs have surely discovered by now that they have jumped out of the frying pan into the ice box. A little sunshine, wherever it falls, is a great healer of bitterness, a grouse-killer, a wholesome purple heart. We shall need a lot of it in the coming weeks if we are to endure with fortitude all the gall and bitterness of electioneering. It is wonderful how much of the anger, hatred and malice in human relations, political and social, can be laid to the charge of a prolonged east wind and grey skies. It is easier to govern and to be governed in summer than in a cold and early spring. Even the taxpayer, the ratepayer, the criminal and the young thug can then find on the beaches and in their gardens some relief from their pre-occupations. But the sun is not unfortunately a universal healer of bitterness. Tempers are often shortest where it shines longest and hottest. Even we, who worship the sun and pine for it, have known what it is to have too much of a good thing. I remember hearing complaints in the summer of 1959, the last occasion on which we enjoyed more than two consecutive fine days.

The Old Stager

Above: Mayor of West Berlin, Willy Brandt (centre), visits the German Food Centre while in London for the International Socialist Conference

Above: Schoolchildren from Lille, France, look delighted on their trip to the Stirling Poultry Products hatchery at Welwyn Garden City, Herts. The children were on a two-week visit to Britain as the guests of Norton Secondary School in Letchworth

The items in " The Voice of the Commonwealth " are contributed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor of " The Sphere "

THE VOICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH

122 **GREAT BRITAIN**

Preparing a Prime Ministers' Conference

With the General Election postponed until the autumn, the Commonwealth Relations Office was last week collating the replies to cables sent out to the other Commonwealth governments requesting their suggestions for a date for a Prime Ministers' Conference in the middle of the summer. The first or second week in July was expected to be the favourite choice. The African heads of government are already committed to an Organisation for African Unity conference in Cairo on July 17.

There will be two newcomers to the Prime Ministers' meetings who have gained their independence since the last conference in September, 1962. They are Kenya and Zanzibar. Dr Banda of Malawi (Nyasaland), due for independence on July 6, will almost certainly be invited and so, it is thought, will Mr Kaunda, of Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) which also becomes independent this year. Malta should also be represented if evolution to independence goes according to plan (see report on opposite page). Colonies may send observers. The position of Southern Rhodesia in the conference was the subject of much speculation last week. When Southern Rhodesia achieved internal self-government in the 1920s, the practice began of her Prime Minister being invited to Prime Ministers' Conferences. On the formation of the Central African Federation this courtesy was accorded to the Federal Prime Minister. Whether this invitation should now revert to Southern Rhodesia is a question for the other Prime Ministers coming to this year's conference to decide.

Above: Dr Eric Williams, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr Duncan Sandys, the Commonwealth Relations Secretary, meet in Marlborough House in London, which will almost certainly be the venue for next summer's Prime Ministers' Conference. While Dr Williams was in London the British editions of two of his books were published. They will be reviewed on these pages in next week's issue of The Sphere

Right: Mr Habibullah Khan, Pakistan's Home Minister, talks with the Indian Premier, Mr Nehru, in the latter's home in New Delhi. Mr Khan visited India last week, but failed to reach agreement with India's Home Minister on their search for a solution to the problems of their respective minority communities, one of the most serious questions dividing the sub-continent. A further meeting is planned to take place in Pakistan

Above: Mr Ian Smith, the new Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia. He had been Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer in the previous government. His emergence at the top was regarded as a victory for the White extremists who demand immediate independence

Right: Mr Winston Field leaves his office in Salisbury after handing in his resignation as Southern Rhodesian Prime Minister. He was generally considered a moderating influence in the government party, the Rhodesia Front. Reportedly he resigned on policy for independence

MALTA

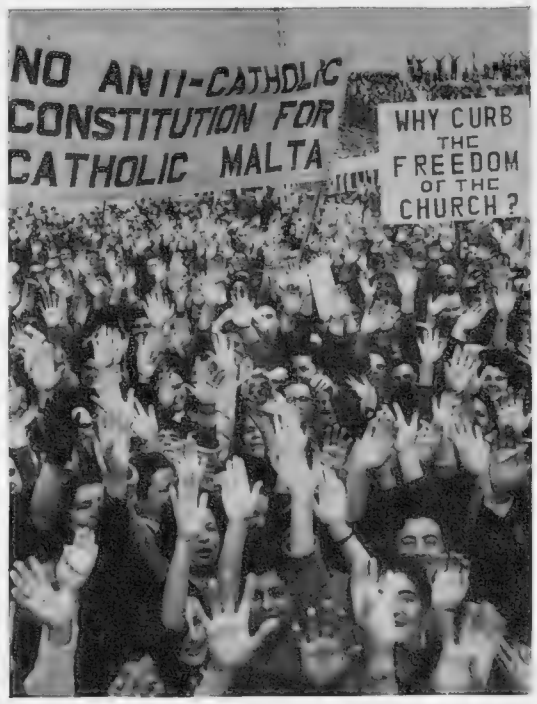
A choice for Malta

Early in May a referendum will be held in Malta to decide whether the people approve the proposed constitution for independence, published in the Malta Government *Gazette* of April 4. The proposals have been drafted by Dr Borg Olivier, Prime Minister and leader of the Nationalist party, and follow closely the ideas for the future of the island that he put forward at the Malta Conference meeting in London in June last year. The only positive decision to emerge from that conference was the announcement that Malta must be independent by May 31 this year. As far as the British Government is concerned this date still holds good, though the Maltese electoral registers have to be completed, the referendum successfully held and the Orders in Council drawn up before Malta can become an independent state. Should the referendum fail, Dr Borg Olivier might feel he has to resign, and Mr Sandys would have to impose a constitutional solution if he still wanted to keep to his timetable.

To ensure that the conditions under which the referendum is held are free and fair, the British Government has appointed four observers to witness its progress. The observers are Sir Richard Ramage, previously Colonial Secretary, Sierra Leone; Mr Hubert Childs, who was the UK Plebiscite Administrator for the Southern Cameroons, 1960; and Mr R. E. Wraith, previously chairman of the Nigerian Electoral Commission. They are to have as their chairman Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, previously chairman of the Kenya Electoral Commission in 1962. Two British Members of Parliament will be joining the observers, Sir Lionel Heald and Mr Elwyn Jones.

The appointment of British observers has not noticeably improved the reaction of Malta's Opposition parties to the referendum. Their attitude has not been encouraging to the Government. The leader of the Christian Workers party, Mr Pellegrini, and Miss Mabel Strickland of the Progressive Constitutional Party, have said that their parties would boycott the referendum because they were against an independence constitution of any kind. They and Dr Ganado, leader of the Democratic Nationalist Party, assert that the decision to hold it at all is a setback for the Prime Minister.

The most hostile reaction of all has come from Mr Dom Mintoff, leader of the Labour Party and of the Opposition in the Maltese Parliament. If the referendum were to give approval to the government's plans, Mr Mintoff would receive a severe setback in his struggle with the Roman Catholic Church. He is determined to have written into the constitution clauses that would effectively curb the powers of the church to interfere in the civil life of the Maltese people. The church is equally fervid in its denigration of the Labour Party. The Archbishop of Malta, Dr Gonzi, has stated that he would be the first to disobey the new constitution if it contained any of Mr Mintoff's proposals, designed, it has been said, "to legalise persecution of the Roman Catholic Church." As the Prime Minister has guaranteed that no clauses would be included that did not enjoy the church's blessing, he is virtually assured of church support.



Left: Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, who is chairman of the observers at the Malta referendum, is seen here, at the centre of the table, while chairman of an inquiry into the Somali-Kenya border dispute. Sir Stafford is a former Chief Justice of Nigeria

Above: A recent rally in Malta to protest against the possible inclusion in the new Maltese constitution of clauses limiting the Roman Catholic Church's powers. The feud between the church and the Labour Party is the biggest obstacle to independence

GABOR DENES

YACHTING

124 There is a fundamental change in the method of selection for the Olympic Regatta this year. Whereas the RYA Olympic selectors for the most recent Games took care not to base their choice on the performance of boat, helmsman and crew in one particular event, but to assess performances shown over a longer period, this time there are to be *final* selection trials, on which their decision will be founded. For the first time it has been possible to organise Olympic-type regattas, simulating the real thing in courses, type of waters, number of days' racing, and in the use of the Olympic scoring system. The winning helmsman in each class will be nominated to represent the UK. Apparently the RYA Olympic Committee has come round to the view that this method will produce the man in each class most likely to do well in the Olympics. It is considered that such trials will give the same chance to discount "bad luck" or breakage of gear as in Japan. Great efforts have been made to provide our promising helmsmen with preliminary experience in racing in strange conditions. For the past two years the RYA spent about £1,000 each year in grants to helmsmen racing in regattas abroad. Already this season a number of British helmsmen and crews have been racing in regattas on the Continent, in many cases aided by RYA grants.

On these early results it looks as if this expenditure is well spent. In the Flying Dutchman class, Keith Musto and Tony Morgan with *Lady C* have not only come first in both the San Remo and the Monte Carlo regattas, but also collected the aggregate prize for both. This was a praiseworthy achievement, for there was plenty of powerful international opposition, including the strongest nations in this class, France, Germany and Holland. Another well established leader of the class, Stuart Jardine at the same time came first at the Loosdrecht Easter Egg Regatta. His twin brother, Adrian, incidentally, has now left the class on becoming a member of the crew in Robin Aisher's 5·5 metre *Yeoman X*, so there is still a chance for the twins to meet in Japan.

At this early stage I feel most hopeful for good results from the UK at Tokyo in the Flying Dutchman class, and also in the single-hander Finn class. We seem to be much further ahead in these two than in the two keelboat classes, the 5·5 metre and the Dragon. (It is quite certain now that we are not going to compete in the Star class.)

Brian Saffery-Cooper came first in Finns at Loosdrecht, but this does not necessarily mean very much, for the meeting is not regarded as a very serious one for the Finn class, in which the opposition is not nearly as stiff as in the Flying Dutchman. On the other hand Jack Knight's third in the San Remo and Monte Carlo event is worth quite a lot. This class is full of talent, the stalwarts of earlier years are still at the top of their form while a prodigious number of younger helmsmen are making themselves felt. Thus, Richard Creagh-Osborne was still the easy winner of the Cheddar meeting in March, and Vernon Stratton, Canham, Newman, Grogono and Astley are still very much in the running.

Hopes are running high for British successes in the Flying Dutchman class (above) and the single-hander Finn class (below) in the Olympic Regatta later this year. The pictures were taken during recent European regattas

"OUR BEST GLORY"

by Charles Archer

"And who, in time, knows whither may be sent
The treasure of our tongue, to what strange shores
This gain of our best glory shall be lent,
T'inrich unknowing nations with our stores?"

So wrote a contemporary of Shakespeare, Samuel Daniel. Prophetically enough, he might have been referring especially to Shakespeare, that busy, practical, popular dramatist who was to become one of the most durable of exports from Britain. This year, as everybody must know, we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare, on April 23. At least, that is popularly his birthday, although like so much else about the man we do not really know. All we know for certain is that he was christened, the son of John and Mary Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon, on April 26, 1564.

His quatercentenary has become a beanfeast indeed. From Perth to Swansea, from Tunbridge Wells to Taunton, from Rotherham to Penzance, the whole country is setting out to hold drama festivals, professional and amateur, of his work. Somewhere this year, it looks as if it will be possible to see every play he wrote or listen to a lecture on the more abstruse aspects of Elizabethan staging and acting. And from all over the world, visitors will be coming to attend the festivities, making this a record year for Britain's booming tourist industry.

The centre of the celebrations will be Shakespeare's home town, Stratford-upon-Avon, where he was born and to which he retired, a prosperous man, and died, neatly enough, on April 23, 1616. According to John Ward, vicar of Stratford, "Shakespeare, Drayton and Ben Jonson had a merry meeting, and it seems drank too hard, for Shakespeare died of a fever there contracted. . . ." At Stratford this year, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre will be accomplishing the monumental task of presenting seven History plays in chronological order, opening with *Richard II*, then following on with *Henry IV*, Parts I and II and *Henry V*, and ending with the highly acclaimed production of the trilogy, The Wars of the Roses—*Henry VI*, *Edward IV* and *Richard III*. These productions, which include a certain amount of re-writing of the plays, have attracted some criticism as well as much praise. But they represent one of the most ambitious attempts to present Shakespeare in terms of our current society. One has only to see the contrasting styles of the various foreign theatrical companies taking part in the World Drama season at the Aldwych Theatre in London to realise that there are many styles of acting. These are all, of course, equally valid. Styles of acting change with country and different centuries: they reflect the temper of the age.

Shakespeare's plays have had a chequered history on the English stage—happy endings tacked on to Lear, and bowdlerisation, for instance. Although it is now customary to sneer at these emendations, it seems to me that the differing interpretations of each age are all valid. There is no one right way to perform

Above: The Droeshout portrait from the 1623 First Folio, an authentic likeness of Shakespeare?
Top: The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford

Above: "Puck" by Sir Joshua Reynolds (dated 1789) in the Shakespeare in Art Exhibition at the Arts Council in St. James's Square, London, until May 9

Shakespeare, any more than there is just one true account of his life. Literary critics are apt to take tiny clues from the plays and write hotheadedly that they are right and everybody else is wrong. The alarums and excursions of Dr A. L. Rowse are a case in point. But as the late A. P. Rossiter, a much respected scholar, once said: "The ancients had a thrifty habit of scrubbing parchments and using them again: These written-over documents are called palimpsests. It is a pity that frugal Elizabethan dramatists did not use parchments for play-books: we should not then need to rely on the hazardous ultra-violet of interpretive criticism or the infra-red of critical bibliography. . . ."

It is one of the glories of the English stage today that it can offer the equally exciting—but different—views of Shakespeare of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the National Theatre production of Othello, with Sir Laurence Olivier in the title role.

Besides the drama festivals, there are a great number of exhibitions and lectures on the dramatist and his age. These are headed by the giant Shakespeare Exhibition, directed by Richard Buckle, which starts in Stratford before travelling round to various parts of Britain. It is to illustrate the dramatist's career against the background of Elizabethan and Jacobean England. Among major features will be a reconstruction of the Globe Theatre, in which voices of leading actors will be heard speaking passages from the plays, a collection of portraits of eminent people of the period, and programmes of songs and madrigals. This and other exhibitions in various cities are especially valuable as Shakespeare was very much a man of his age.

We possess only the barest skeleton of facts about his life. Its very bareness is one of the planks in all the arguments that Shakespeare the dramatist did not exist: he was really somebody else. We know that *continued on page 126*

"OUR BEST GLORY" *continued from page 125*

he married Ann Hathaway late in 1582 and that in May of the following year, Ann gave birth to a daughter. There is a strong supposition that the young couple had to get married. Other children followed. But we know little more. We don't even know the date Shakespeare arrived in London nor what job he had to start with. But it was some time round about 1588.

England was booming economically. Peter Quennell in his *Shakespeare* writes: " London, the heart of the kingdom (was) full of prosperity and civic pride. No other metropolis in Northern Europe could claim so large a population: and before the end of the century, as suburbs expanded, London may have found room for 300,000 inhabitants. Its nucleus was the ancient City, guarded by medieval walls and gates; and behind them emerged the towers and steeples of over a hundred venerable churches, with St. Paul's, a blackened, time-scarred hulk, now shorn of its original spire, but still enormous and majestic, standing high on Ludgate Hill. . . ." Soranzo, the Venetian ambassador in London, wrote home, describing the banks of the Thames, that there were " many large palaces making a very fine show, but . . . disfigured by the ruins of a multitude of churches and monasteries." It was an era of rapid expansion and a great deal of building, but little remains, through time and the Great Fire of 1666. Elsewhere in Britain there are fine examples of the period's distinctive domestic architecture, particularly the great country houses and renaissance palaces.

The first evidence we have of Shakespeare's life in London is the bitter attack in 1592 by a dying, embittered fellow-poet, Greene, in *A Groatsworth of Wit*. From this it is clear that by then Shakespeare was already well established and popular. He was a member of a theatrical company, subsequently called The Chamberlain's Men. Under the patronage of the Queen, the theatrical companies flourished despite the opposition of the city companies. They were vastly popular. Another of Shakespeare's contemporaries, Thomas Dekker, described the scene at the Globe Theatre: " The place is so free in entertainment, allowing a stool as well to the farmer's son as to your Templar: that your stinkard has the self-same liberty to be there in his tobacco-fumes which your sweet courtier hath: and that your carman and tinker claim as strong a voice in their suffrage, and sit to give judgment on the play's life and death, as well as the proudest Momus among the tribe of critic."

A successful playwright and actor, Shakespeare also found time to become a businessman. Like most Elizabethans he was not averse to earning money through deals in property and goods. By 1597 he was well enough established to buy an important piece of property in Stratford, New Place. His name cropped up in various legal documents, otherwise there is very little written evidence of his life. What he did from year to year is still a matter of conjecture. He certainly had a powerful patron, possibly the Earl of Southampton, and there are some signs that he was engaged in more than one unhappy love affair. Besides the internal evidence of the sonnets and a certain amount of gossip, there is that enigmatic piece of literary evidence, called *Willobie His Avisa*. These are youthful verses about a West Country innkeeper's wife and other characters, including W. S., an old player.

As the years passed from the golden exuberance of the Elizabethan era into introspective melancholia of the Jacobean, Shakespeare's fame as the popular dramatist of his time increased. As his fame increased, so did his wealth—added to by his property deals. Evidence of his success is shown in the revivals of his plays. One contemporary estimate by Anthony Scoloker refers to " Freindly Shakespeare's tragedies, where the Comedian rides, when the Tragedian stands on tiptoe and Prince Hamlet pleases all." By 1612, after a writing career of 20 years or so, Shakespeare was in retirement in Stratford. What may well have been his last play, at least in part, Henry VIII, brought the house down when it was first performed at the Globe in 1613, for the theatre caught fire and burnt down.

The best tribute to Shakespeare is the most famous. Ben Jonson, his friend and rival, wrote: " He was, indeed, honest, and of an open and free nature: had an excellent Fancy, brave notions and gentle expressions: wherein he flowed with that facility that sometimes it was necessary that he should be stopped." That wonderful facility has caught the imagination of the whole world.

Above: Lower Brockhampton Manor, Herefordshire. Domestic architecture in Shakespeare's day was mostly half-timbered. A wooden framework was filled with bricks or plaster to form the walls

Right: The Old Palace of the Bishops of Ely, near Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Hatfield was completed by Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, in 1611

Left: The ballroom in Knole, National Trust property at Sevenoaks, Kent

Below: The front of the Sackville College, at East Grinstead in Sussex

Above: Mary Arden's Cottage is at Wilmcote, in Warwickshire
Above centre: The Round House at Evesham, in Worcestershire
Left: The Tudor Gatehouse to Stokesay Castle is in Shropshire

GOOD COUNTRYMAN BY BRIAN VESEY-FITZGERALD

128 1564 was a remarkable year. In that year Michelangelo died: in that year Peter Breughel "the younger," Galileo Galilei, Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare were born. On February 18th, the quatercentenary of the death of Michelangelo, we might have paid tribute to the memory of one of the world's great geniuses: the day, at least so far as the English were concerned, was just another day. On February 15th, the quatercentenary of the birth of Galileo, we might have paid tribute to the memory of one of the most remarkable of men, a man whose thought did much to change the course of history: the day, at least so far as the English were concerned, was just another day. But, of course, these men were foreigners. Christopher Marlowe was not. Surely we might have celebrated the 400th anniversary of the birth of the genius who found the English drama crude and formless and left it a vital force in English literature, the genius who paved the way for Shakespeare. The traditional date of his birth, February 8th, produced an article or two in the literary press and maybe a couple in the high-brow Sundays: no more than that. But the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare: ah, that is another matter!

And really it is rather odd. We know a great deal about those two foreigners, Michelangelo and Galileo; a great deal about their lives. We know a good deal about Christopher Marlowe. If we do not know the exact date of his birth, we do know where he was educated—King's School, Canterbury and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge—and we do know where he died, that he was killed in a drunken brawl at Deptford. But of William Shakespeare we know virtually nothing at all.

Now, I would not have you think that I have swarms of bees buzzing in my bonnet about Shakespeare. I was brought up to believe that Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare. I was fortunate in that the headmaster of my prep. school knew and loved his Shakespeare, that the English master at my public school was another such, that my university tutor was yet another. If these men doubted that Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare (which I doubt) they kept their doubts to themselves and encouraged their pupils to read Shakespeare for pleasure. I still read Shakespeare for pleasure. I do not belong to the Oxford school or the Bacon school or the Marlowe school (there are those who do not believe that Marlowe was killed in a drunken brawl). I believe that William Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare.

Amid all the spate of adulation and nonsense, it should be pointed out that we do not know beyond all doubt that it was the William Shakespeare who died at Stratford-on-Avon on April 23rd, 1616, who wrote the plays and the sonnets. We do not know for certain that that William Shakespeare was born in what is now described as "the birthplace": we do not know for certain that that William Shakespeare attended the local grammar school: we do not know for certain that Anne Hathaway's cottage was ever Anne Hathaway's cottage. We certainly do not know for certain that that William Shakespeare wrote the plays and the sonnets. In so extrovert an age as the Elizabethan it seems to me almost incredible. Certainly, I find it incredible Bacon or Oxford, Rutland or Derby, Dyer or any of the others, should have been content to conceal his identity as the true author, should have been content to reveal it (for posterity) in a series of elaborate codes. They were human.

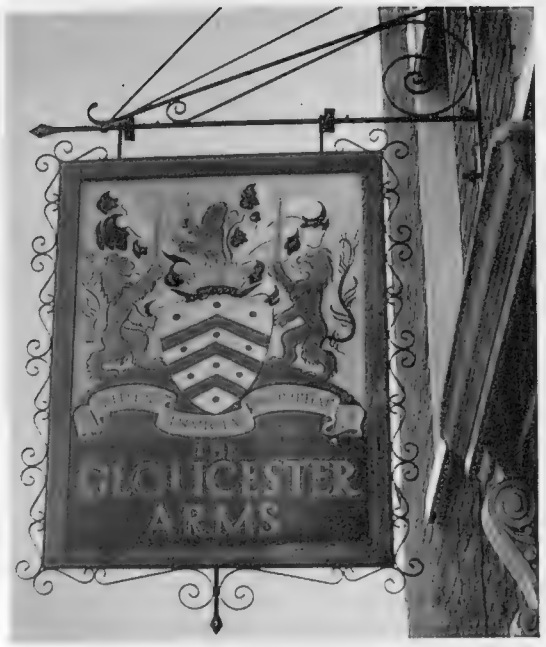
Above: Anne Hathaway's Cottage at Stratford
Right: The room in the house in Stratford, where it is thought, Shakespeare was born in April 1564

But William Shakespeare was superhuman. He was an exceptionally good field naturalist, with the eye and the knowledge that one normally finds only in countrymen of lifelong habit. But William Shakespeare, or so it is said, did not spend his life in the country. Again, he had so profound a knowledge of law that there are those, expert in these matters, who maintain that only Bacon of the men of his time could have written Shakespeare. But then, read Shakespeare and you are forced to the conclusion that he had a profound knowledge of everything. His plays are an achievement without parallel in literature: they cover the entire compass of human life and they treat it always on the highest imaginative level. And yet this man, who was a giant among men and must have been recognised as such in his time, is less known than most of his contemporaries. We know much more about Jonson, about Bacon, about Marlowe; much more about many of the minor dramatists of the period. Perhaps it is right that the greatest of them all should also be the most mysterious.

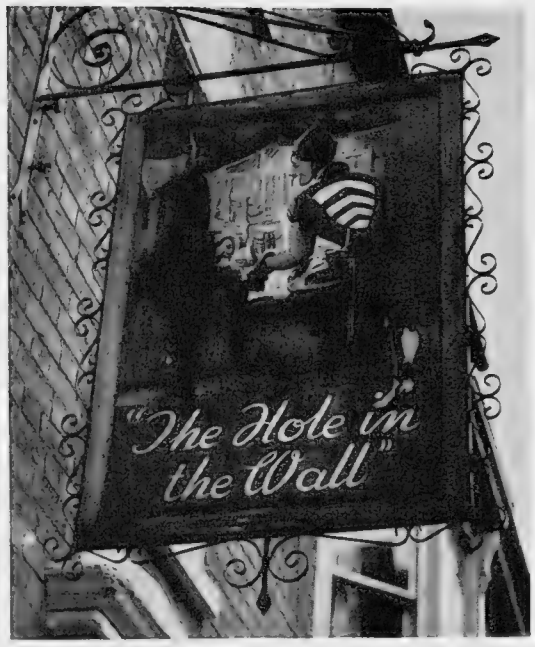
Certainly, it is just that his works should have achieved immortality. But it is less than just that this immortality should have become an industry with all the shoddy trappings of the modern tourist industry. For if it was the William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon about whom we know a few details who wrote the beautiful sonnets, the timeless plays—and the probability is that it was—then he was the most modest, the most retiring, of men and he must turn in his grave at the knowledge of what his home town has made of it all—and out of it all. But maybe he knew what was going to happen. Did he not write: "My fame is shrewdly gored."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES IN STRATFORD

One of the very few incontrovertible facts about Shakespeare is that he enjoyed taverns. The internal evidence from the plays is abundant. Further, we are told he died as a result of "a merry meeting" with cronies. It must have taken place in an inn. Therefore the inns of Stratford with their attractive signs and in many cases long histories are an essential part of the visitor's itinerary.



The Gloucester Arms, a "two-sided" Stratford sign



On the reverse side is painted The Hole in the Wall

The Black Swan is another example of the two-sided art

The other half of The Black Swan is The Dirty Duck

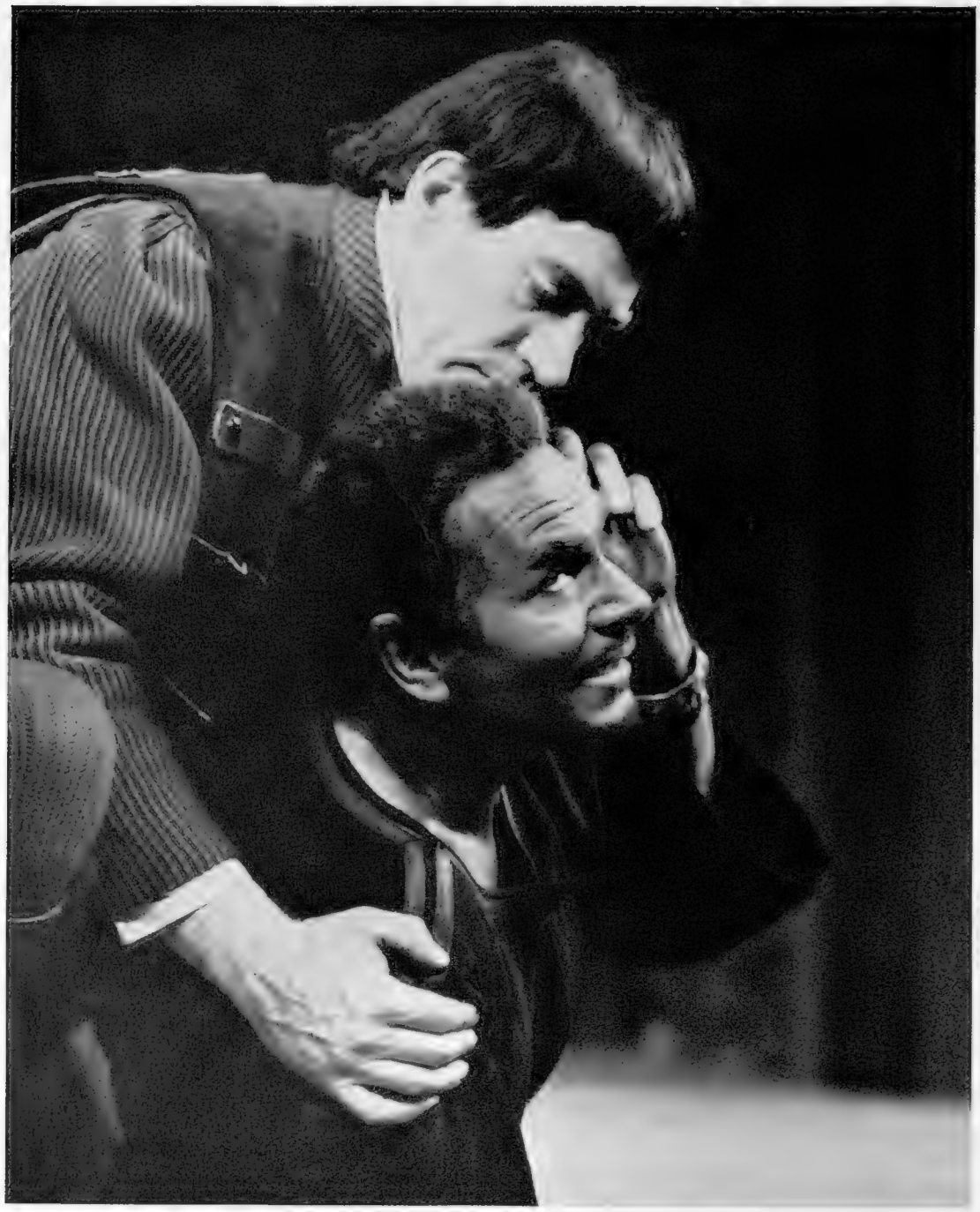
The Plymouth Arms recalls a land-owning family here

The Queen's Head has a different queen on the reverse

A reminder of falconry is seen in The Bird in Hand

The Winged Spur Inn commemorates cockfighting

VILLAINY AND HISTORY



Above: Sir Laurence Olivier as Othello and Frank Finlay as Iago. The National Theatre Company production of William Shakespeare's *Othello* opened at the Old Vic in London on April 21

Right: Joyce Redman takes the part of Emilia and Maggie Smith that of Desdemona in *Othello*

The National Theatre Company brought *Othello* into its repertoire last week at the Old Vic in London, with Sir Laurence Olivier in the title role. Sir Laurence has been quoted as saying that Othello is the worst of the big Shakespeare roles. He has, however, worked himself into the part with characteristically meticulous care. His make up, from head to foot, takes two and a half hours to put on. Iago is played by Frank Finlay; Desdemona by Maggie Smith. The play has already been on a tour of the provinces, after a two week postponement caused by Sir Laurence's illness.

At Stratford-upon-Avon on April 15, the Royal Shakespeare Company began their marathon presentation of Shakespeare's Histories. The season, in honour of Shakespeare's quatercentenary, comprises the complete chronological sequence of plays, spanning 100 years of English history. The plays have great variety. They move from the tragic weakness of *Richard II* to the great comedy scenes of Sir John Falstaff in both parts of *Henry IV*. The patriotic Empire building of *Henry V* is followed by the violent struggle of the Wars of the Roses that takes place in *Henry VI* and *Edward IV*. Finally, there comes the evil despot *Richard III*. The plays at Stratford will be performed in their historical order until late November.

Above: In the National Theatre production of *Othello*, from left to right, Kenneth Mackintosh as Lodovico, Frank Finlay as Iago, Edward Caddick as Gratiano, Sir Laurence Olivier as Othello and Maggie Smith as Desdemona

Left: At the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Company present *Henry IV*, Part II, with Hugh Griffith as Falstaff, Susan Engel as Doll Tearsheet (centre), and Patience Collier as Mistress Quickly. The Company are presenting the complete chronological sequence of Shakespeare's histories, spanning 100 years of English history from Richard II to Richard III, a project never before attempted in the theatre

SHAKESPEARE GALORE

132 **The Great Shakespeare Jubilee** by Christian Deelman: Michael Joseph. 30s.
"Mr W. H." by Leslie Hotson: Hart-Davis. 35s.
Shakespeare by Peter Alexander: Oxford University Press. 10s 6d.
Paperbacks: **A Shakespeare Companion** edited by F. E. Halliday: Penguin. 10s 6d.
Studies in Shakespeare: Oxford Paperbacks. 8s 6d.
Shakespeare: A Celebration 6s. **Shakespeare's Tragedies** 4s 6d. Both Pelican Originals.
Shakespeare: A Survey by E. K. Chambers: Pelican Book. 5s.
Shakespeare's Plutarch edited by T. J. B. Spencer: Penguin Books. 12s 6d.
The Shell and BP Guide to Britain edited by Geoffrey Boumphrey: Ebury Press. 30s.
The Discovery of Scotland by Maurice Lindsay: Robert Hale. 21s.

Poetic sensitivity, a close observation of human character and an incomparable mastery of language have placed Shakespeare upon a pinnacle, "outopping knowledge," as Matthew Arnold has said; his appeal is to men at many levels of understanding. His work is as important in this television age as it was in the theatre of Victorian England or the Elizabethan England of his own day.

Shakespeare, indeed, seems to stand outside time; it is as if in his own span of life he conquered it and it was no longer his enemy. Today, we mark the 400th anniversary of his birth with a spate of new books and commentaries, all of them worthwhile and some of them important.

Christian Deelman's *The Great Shakespeare Jubilee* takes us back to the first Shakespeare Festival organised by Garrick and held in 1769. This event, lasting only three days and focusing upon Stratford, marks the point at which Shakespeare stopped being regarded only as a popular and admirable dramatist, instead he took for the first time his pre-eminent place in world literature. Garrick's Jubilee was not all pure gold. The antics and foolish mummery that surrounded many of the events of those crowded three days caused much comment and indignation, and we see the beginning of Shakespearian commercialism on the Stratford front; the sale of cheap and nasty knick-knacks and souvenirs at grossly inflated prices. Garrick's performance at the dedication of the statue of the Bard was astonishing, and the actor's magic voice so powerful, so brilliantly controlled, thrilled everyone. What was especially remarkable, says Mr Deelman, was that Garrick achieved it without costume or make-up, and apparently with no carefully prepared text. It was the performance of his life.

Shakespeare's dedication "to the onlie begetter of these insuing sonnets Mr WH." has baffled scholars down the centuries. Who was the poet's friend and who was the Dark Lady? Dr Leslie Hotson, a Shakespearian scholar with an unorthodox turn of mind, has brought his unique skill to bear on the problem, considering the evidence with a detective's eye and against the background of his own vast knowledge of Elizabethan England and its language. *Mr W.H.* is a fascinating document, and the William Hatcliffe revealed by Dr Hotson's probing, a fascinating figure supremely suited to the role of being the poet's friend. His identity opens doors everywhere in these poems, as also does the identity of the dark lady, a rare raven-haired beauty with irresistible dark eyes which, alas, bewitched both Will Shakespeare and Will Hatcliffe by turns, for a while doing damage to their friendship. Dr Hotson's great identification parade is a magnificent achievement, and to the layman at any rate convincing.

Professor Peter Alexander's lucid survey of Shakespeare's life and work in *Shakespeare* is an authoritative introduction addressed particularly to the student, a condensation of the copious scholarship surrounding the text of the plays. His volume makes a timely addition to the excellent Home University Library series.

Six new paperbacks touch upon various aspects of Shakespeare's life and work, and the most comprehensive and possibly the most valuable is *A Shakespeare Companion*, a simple and handy index and dictionary to all aspects of Shakespearian lore. F. E. Halliday, the compiler

Right: M Jean Hugo, the French artist, is at work on some of his figures which are a feature of the Shakespeare Exhibition due to be opened by the Duke of Edinburgh at Stratford this week. The Exhibition is estimated to have cost £150,000 and has been backed by a committee of private sponsors headed by Mr I. Jack Lyons the industrialist. The director of the exhibition is Richard Buckle, the writer and critic. The theme is to illustrate the life, career and times of Shakespeare. It is planned to move the exhibition to Edinburgh on August 18 until October 5, and it will be seen in London from October 26

MAXINE ELLIOTT —*A Relative Study*

Maxine by Diana Forbes-Robertson: Hamish Hamilton. 30s, is a lively biography of a woman who owned a theatre, named after her, in New York, was a star but was never interested in the stage; whose reputation was more surely founded on her beauty, her social success, her money and her gifts as a hostess. Her niece has written about her lovingly but with remarkable objectivity and has shown the reader many of this exceptional woman's less known facets. For instance, Maxine Elliott was a phenomenal business woman. It was often said of her that she was a legend in her lifetime, that she had much business advice from such giants as J. P. Morgan, but her own legal adviser once said that if she had been a man, Schiff would have been her secretary and Carnegie her office boy. Bernard Shaw thought of her as a tornado; one of her husbands as a locomotive, the other as a Roman senator. Maxine Elliott was therefore not, in fact, the popular idea of a great beauty protected by the men who loved her. She died in 1940 in her beautiful house on a shore of the Mediterranean. I have no hesitation in saying this book is a tribute that her many surviving friends will really appreciate.

Letters to a Sister by Rose Macaulay: Collins. 30s, is a series which starts in 1926 and ends with the author's death six years ago. Miss Macaulay was once called "a born epistolary" and how right the phrase was. Her letters cover an enormous scope in places as in persons and her style through them all is as witty as it is relaxed. She would write about the Emperor Haile Selassie or a tiresome air-raid warning, about Trebizon or Romford, about publishers, politicians and other writers all with a good humour which nevertheless has its devastating side. The volume is as intimate as only a collection of family letters can be, but it has the stamp of her brilliant far-ranging mind and it is in many ways a fine introduction to a fine writer.

The Golden Lamp by Alasdair Alpin MacGregor: Michael Joseph. 25s, is the first volume of an autobiographical trilogy and begins with the author's return to Edinburgh from the trenches after the war. There he attended the University, matriculated and—quite as importantly—made a friend of his elderly Scots landlady who taught him among other things "the Doric." It was in her little house that he began to write with the old lady correcting his type scripts and proofs and it was there that his friendships included a marvellous assortment of types from ploughmen to the writer's school fellow, later Lord Kilmuir. And there were, of course, always animals about, whether collies or canaries. Mr MacGregor, athlete, mountaineer, explorer, geographer, musician, poet and eminent photographer, has not unnaturally had a career up to date of extraordinary interest. Just one of the book's highlights is his questioning of the validity of his own clan's Chieftainship; a controversial matter seen from the most unusual point of view. A rich book and luckily to be followed by two of its fellows.

They Fought Alone by John Keats: Secker & Warburg. 35s, tells a wonderful story which began when the American Forces in the Philippines surrendered in 1942 and when a middle-aged mining engineer called Fertig decided to take his chances in the jungle and with a handful of Americans continue the fight. When the American command returned to Mindanao they found Fertig virtually in control of one of the world's largest islands, commanding an army of

of this handbook, has needless to say not quite caught up with the detective work of Leslie Hotson, his entry regarding the sonnets making no reference to Mr Will Hatcliffe. Professor Peter Alexander also marks the 400th anniversary by presenting ten of the British Academy's Annual Shakespeare Lectures under the title *Studies in Shakespeare*. As seven of these have been out of print for some time their collation in the present form is most welcome.

Shakespeare: A Celebration, written by experts in many fields of Shakespearian study, is designed for the playgoer and student and especially for reading in this anniversary year. Some excellent photographs enliven the text. *Shakespeare's Tragedies* is a selection of modern criticism of the major plays edited by Laurence Lerner. Sir Edmund Chambers' *Shakespeare: A Survey* now appears in paperback form, and is of special interest to those who wish to read the plays and learn about them in the context of the poet's psychological development. The poet's use of his sources has always been of absorbing interest, and in *Shakespeare's Plutarch* Professor T. B. J. Spencer has collated four lives from North's Plutarch—Julius Caesar, Brutus, Mark Antony and Coriolanus—with extracts from the plays for which they were the main sources. An arduous job this, and an admirable one.

The Shakespeare anniversary is almost certainly going to attract a record number of visitors to Britain. It will not only be Stratford they will want to see. *The Shell and BP Guide to Britain* is a skilfully devised handbook which takes one by easy stages from Penzance to John O'Groat's and beyond, to Orkney and Shetland. Each section is concerned with a county or a region and has an introduction by an expert on the area and a particularised gazetteer. The numerous illustrations include 48 colour plates.

Maurice Lindsay's *The Discovery of Scotland* is a valuable piece of research and a wonderful introduction to the country, providing material unavailable elsewhere. **Richard Edmonds**

Above: In *Julius Caesar* in London, 1920, Milton Rosmer (Cassius) is fifth from left. Then to the right are Henry Oscar (Cimber); Basil Gill (Brutus); Henry Ainley (Mark Antony); Ernest Milton (Decius Brutus); Clifton Boyne (Caesar); Claude Rains (Casca) and Ernest Digges (Soothsayer). This is an illustration in J. C. Trewin's *Shakespeare on the English Stage 1900-64* (Barrie and Rockliff. 45s) **Left:** In 1961 in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Stratford, from left are: Jill Dixon (Hero); Geraldine McEwan (Beatrice); Rosalind Knight (Ursula) and Maroussia Frank (Margaret). From *The Royal Shakespeare Company 1960-63* (Reinhardt. 42s)

35,000 men against the Japanese and at the head of a civil government with its own law courts, currency, factories and hospitals. Mr Keats has had Colonel Fertig's help in writing this long, exciting and in many ways inspiring book.

Byron the Poet by M. K. Joseph: Gollancz. 45s. The facts and theories about Lord Byron's life are so dramatic and so compelling that there has been and still is an unremitting flow of biographies and studies on his subject. By the same token, there have been far fewer general studies of his work so that Mr Joseph's critical analysis, thoroughly annotated and with constant recourse to quotation, is really welcome. Mr Joseph has seen Byron as a man constantly trying to reconcile the impulses of involvement and detachment in his work. He shows, too, how closely Byron could be judged a poet of our own times.

The Hand of Mary Constable by Paul Gallico: Heinemann. 21s, proves that this author is as much at home with melodrama and suspense as with the more smoothly romantic forms of fiction. The central character of his new novel is a professor whose work is vital to the defence of the West. His little daughter has died but he is convinced that he is receiving communications from her from beyond the grave. Whether this is a consoling fact or part of a hideous conspiracy makes the mainspring of a not quite credible but immensely readable story.

The Princess in England by Michael Campbell: Heinemann. 21s, show this ebullient writer at his spirited best. With Mr Campbell laughter is never very far behind and there are some wonderfully funny things in the present book; but he has also written with sharp observation and a great deal of good sense about life in London and in a more or less rural community. The princess herself is a real oddity, a small plump lady who sounds like an American, says she comes from the Isle of Man and has an odd kind of Asian past. The narrator of the story is also—if he can manage it—to be her biographer and a fine time *he* has, trying to sort truth from fiction and whirling round the country after the princess whose overriding desire is to give everything "a darn good wash." Amusing, unusual and often shrewd.

The Face of a Madonna by Thomas Armstrong: Collins. 21s. Mr Armstrong has not left his native Yorkshire in his new novel but he has gone back to the Middle Ages and to the time of the monasteries for his stirring story. He has shown the day to day life in monastery and nunnery, the teeming life of 15th century York and the wildness of the countryside across which only the adventurous journeyed.

The White Father by Julian Mitchell: Constable. 25s, is a contemporary novel in many senses since it deals basically with a small tribe in an African colony on the verge of independence and with an Englishman's attempts, in a newly discovered Whitehall, to ensure some measure of protection for them under the new regime. Thoughtful, sincere and extremely human.

The Spire by William Golding: Faber & Faber. 18s, is the story of an obsession: the building of a great spire pressed ever higher and higher under the impetus of one man's will and the vision that this man believes he has received. Almost feverish in its tension, this is Mr Golding's most striking book for some years. **Vernon Fane**

IN PURSUIT OF ODD MUSEUMS

BY SYLVIE NICKELS

If we are honest, most of us at some point in our travels have staunchly suppressed a groan at the prospect of visiting another museum. On a lightning journey through Holland, I once staggered out of Boymans Museum in Rotterdam almost straight into Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and, as a result, cannot remember to this day in which of them Rembrandt's "Night Watch" is housed, without checking the catalogue—(it's Rijksmuseum). Museums are one of my weaknesses and, when time is limited, the famous kind send me into a blind panic, rather like a hungry man faced with a ten-page menu and a stop-watch. But the less famous should never be overlooked and can offer far more surprises. What, for example, could reveal a more unexpected aspect of the law-abiding Dutch nation than the law-evading ruses illustrated in Rotterdam's Tax Museum?

Nowadays, I make it a firm rule to enquire into the odder museums of each locality, and thus, last year in Madrid I found myself investigating what was described in the tourist leaflet as the "Universal Museum of Drink." The description could hardly have been more accurate. Down in the basement of the Bar Chicote on that cosmopolitan avenue Jose Antonio (popularly known as Gran Via), 20,000 bottles of intoxicating liquid, neatly catalogued according to geographical origin, have been gathered from 127 different countries over a period of 48 years. Veteran brew of the collection dates back 700 years; locations range from Iceland to Indonesia; brands of whisky/whiskey alone number 360, and adding to the variety are some of the devices by which ingenious topers have circumvented prohibition laws.

From typewriters to headgear

Germany has as eccentric a collection of museums as anywhere. Bayreuth, for example, more usually associated with Wagner's operas, boasts a typewriter museum whose doyen is a wooden machine exactly 100 years old. Ulm has a bread museum, while Kassel concentrates on wallpapers. Paper is featured in Aachen, too, only this time it is newspaper in a museum whose 100,000 editions range from the smallest (Spanish) to the largest (New York, of course) newspapers ever printed. It also houses the world's oldest newspaper, which hails from Pekin and is printed on the finest of silk-paper. Burg Sparrenberg (near Bielefeld, Westphalia) scores with its playing cards museum whose 2,000 decks telescope five centuries of card-playing history all over the world. Buende, also in Wesphalia, has 40 cigar factories and a museum to go with them; along with the history of tobacco and the smoking equipment of the famous, it features a cigar nearly six feet long, calculated to provide some 600 hours' smoking.

The claim to fame of Bad Homburg, an attractive little spa in the Taunus mountains, may not be difficult to guess: one has only to observe the photograph displayed there of Kaiser Wilhelm in hunting regalia and note the familiar headgear which aroused the envy of the future Edward VII and subsequently made fashion history up and down the streets of Britain. Bad Homburg's hat museum is an excellent reflection of masculine fashions (and vanity!) over four centuries.

Scandinavia has two kinds of museum specialities: the open-air and the floating variety. Nearly every small provincial town has its own collection of the more ancient architecture of the district, often charmingly placed in park surroundings. These wooden buildings, toppling at marvellous angles from sheer old age, give a more vivid picture of bygone living conditions in the rugged north than any ordinary museum could. Note the double-storeyed storehouses into whose upper floor the daughters of the house moved during the summer months, working at their trousseaux and no doubt making the most of their freedom from watchful parental eyes. The larger open-air museums, such as the one in Skansen Park, Stockholm, have streets of reconstructed shops, populated in summer by craftsmen who revive the ancient skills. Turku, in south-western Finland, also has an excellent handicrafts museum of this kind.

Floating museums include the windjammers which once traded across the world, such as those of Turku, Mariehamn (Aland) and Stockholm, the latter transformed into a most attractive youth hostel. In Oslo, the *Fram*, the *Kon-Tiki* and the Viking ships have made their own museum history; so, now, has the *Vasa* warship of Stockholm, resurrected in 1961 after nearly three centuries under the sea. But when all the statistics and costings of the salvaging of this inexplicable shipwreck have been read and forgotten, it is the small things which leave the most lasting and poignant impressions: the butter container still bearing traces of butter, and the backgammon board with one dice missing.

Museums sometimes throw unexpected sidelights on to the unsuspected past glories of lesser known places. That Kongsberg, in south-east Norway, was short-listed as a possible Norwegian capital, accounts for the presence there of the enormous theatre-like church, but the cause of Kongsberg's rise to prosperity lies in the nearby Silver Museum. The local silver mines functioned from their discovery in the 17th century until they were closed in 1957, though a small train still takes visitors nearly two miles underground, whence came one of Norway's considerable sources of wealth. The Copper Museum at Falun in the Swedish province of Dalarna is attached to a far older mine (first mentioned in 1288), whose output went a long way to financing the Swedish wars of the 17th century.

Finally, there are the museums dedicated to local citizens, famous or infamous, but posthumously proudly acclaimed. Usually it is not necessary to seek them very far. Everyone in Toledo can direct you to El Greco's house, in Frankfurt to Goethe's, in Albi to the collections of Toulouse Lautrec, in Domrémy to the birthplace of Joan of Arc, but sometimes there are the local characters of whom you will never have heard. Tucked away in the little provincial town of Virrat in central Finland, for example, there is the museum of Martti Kitunen. Martti Kitunen was neither visionnary nor empire-builder, poet nor politician. He was nothing more or less than the local bear hunter, and there he stands, spear poised, surrounded by the tools of his trade, frozen into eternal contest with a woolly brown bear. I feel one is glad to meet him here on the edge of his forest wilderness.

Above: In Oslo, Norway, a museum of Viking ships
Left: Another seafaring exhibit in Oslo, the Kon-Tiki raft
Far left: At Domrémy, where Joan of Arc was born
Below left: Goethe's study in his house in Frankfurt

NEW TIMETABLES

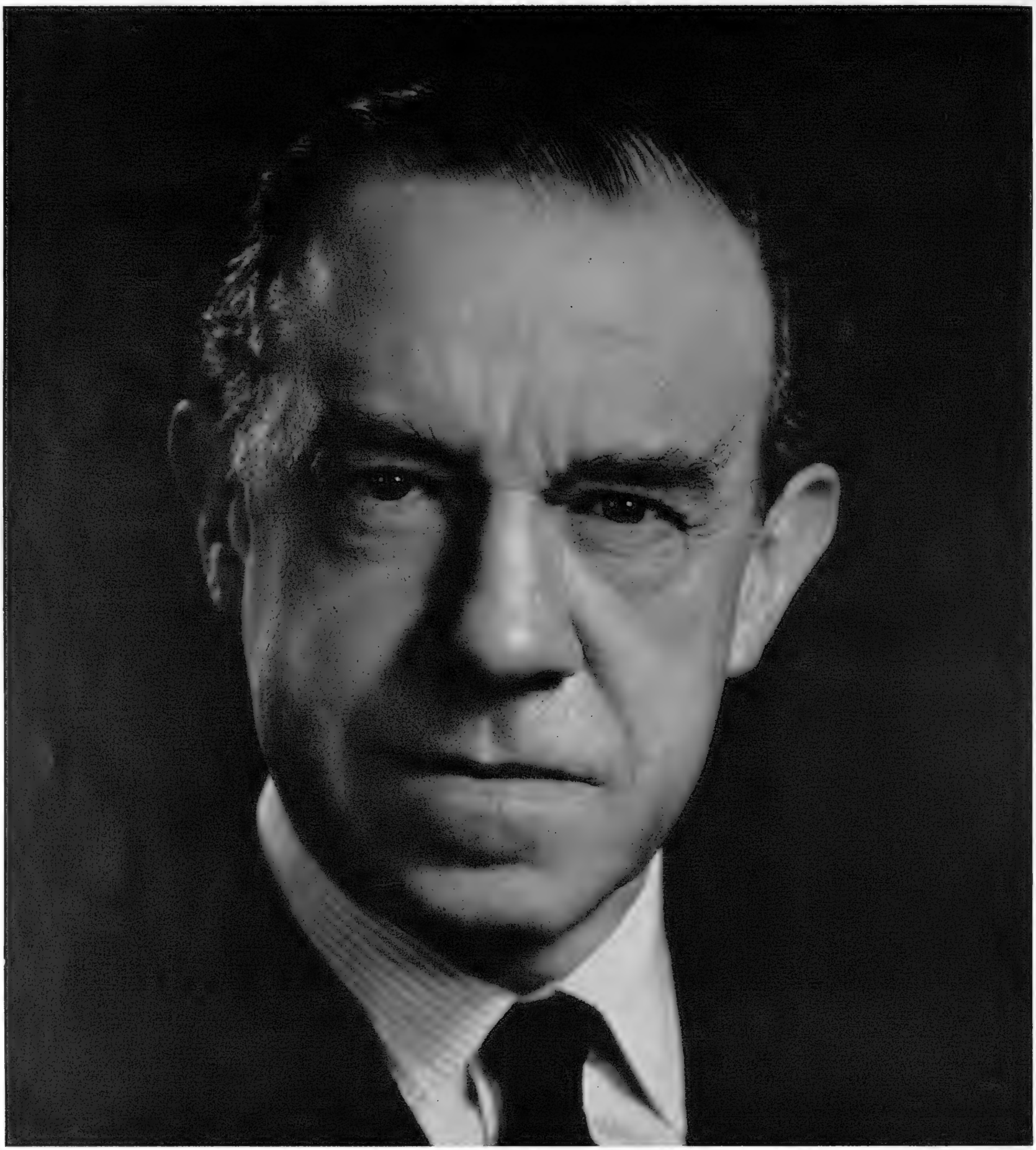
The *Queen Mary* and the *Mauretania* will go cruising again next winter. Eight cruises from Southampton will be made by the *Mauretania* between January and April, and the *Queen Mary*, once again, will make a Christmas cruise and a New Year cruise to Las Palmas. Going away for Christmas for a little warmth and sunshine seems to be catching on.

From May 1 there will be a daily BOAC jet service between Scotland and New York. The flight will leave Prestwick Airport at 1.20 p.m. each day, arriving 7¼ hours later at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, at 3.35 p.m. local time. Return flights take 6¼ hours, leaving New York at 8.30 p.m. and arriving in Prestwick at 7.40 in the morning.

With all due respect to the compilers of large air timetables, a special knack is needed to understand them. The casual user is often defeated by their complexity. Having agitated for some time for a pocket timetable which would contain the briefest and most essential information about services in this country and Europe, I am glad to see that Air France have produced one for their services which measures only 4 ins. by 5½ ins., and will be just the job for the Paris commuter.

Between June 20 and August 14 there will be 17 extra sailings between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire, and between July 11 and August 29 there will be an extra departure from Holyhead on Saturdays at 5.20 a.m. and also at 2.30 p.m. on weekdays, beginning from June 22.

In the other direction, from Dun Laoghaire, the morning sailing will leave at 11.35 a.m. instead of 9.15 a.m. on Mondays, starting from June 26. On Fridays and Saturdays from July 24 there will be two evening sailings—one at 7 p.m. and one at 8.40 p.m. At the peak of the season a further 15 sailings will be added to those already taking place. **W.D.C.C.**



Photographed by Tom Hustler

LEADERS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY: **G. H. BEEBY**

George Harry Beeby is the Chairman of British Titan Products Co. Ltd. After some years in the rubber industry he joined ICI in 1927, and although a technical man by training (he is a Ph.D. of London University), he spent much of the next 30 years on the commercial and administrative side of the company, becoming a Division Chairman of ICI in 1953. He had represented ICI on the Board of British Titan Products since 1948 and, in 1957, he relinquished all his other appointments to become full-time Chairman of that company, which makes titanium dioxide pigments. Titanium dioxide is a brilliantly white pigment, now used throughout the world for the production of white and pastel colours in paints, paper, plastics, fibres, floor-coverings, leather and a host of other products. Under Mr Beeby's chairmanship, BTP has become one of the biggest makers of titanium pigments in the world. The company has manufacturing interests in England, Canada, Tasmania, India and South Africa. It is also engaged in mining titanium minerals in Western Australia and Sierra Leone. As a member of the Council of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, Mr Beeby's experience is available to the chemical industry as a whole. He is Chairman of the National Sulphuric Acid Association, and of the Chemical Divisional Council of the British Standards Institution. Mr Beeby has recently been appointed Chairman of the newly formed Economic Development Committee for the Chemical Industry—the 'little Neddy' of the industry. He is an active worker in the field of industrial accident prevention, and was particularly pleased when, in 1963, British Titan Products Company was awarded the coveted Sir George Earle trophy by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Mr Beeby is a member of the Savile Club, the RAC and the Metropolitan Club of New York. He plays golf at St. George's Hill and collects old glass paperweights. He and his wife live in Surrey

THE BUSINESS ENIGMA

by The Sphere Industrial Correspondent

One of Britain's leading computer companies recently introduced a new system of stock control with the offer that it could virtually guarantee substantial savings in the cost of any customer's stocks and work in progress: if the investigation that it proposed did not cut costs, there would be no charge. This is a sensible marketing proposition; and not as risky as it might sound. There are few aspects of business management where the methods of operational research, given the marvellous tool of the computer, can bring more obvious economies. And management consultants argue, as the National Economic Development Office pointed out again this year, that British business seems to require larger stocks for a given output than its competitors in other advanced countries. Scientific control, understanding, or even accurate measurement of stocks is not one of our stronger points.

Better understanding of stocks, on a national scale, is something that the people in the Treasury, who have to try to steer the economy, continue to sigh for. Not necessarily to reduce the ratio of stocks to industrial output, though that would certainly be useful in the nation's housekeeping as well as in each company's. The first thing the Treasury needs is simply to be able to know how stocks are built up and run down in present business practice. Uncertainty about this very large and very unpredictable element in the economy can bedevil even the very broad forecasting, for example, that the Chancellor has to engage in at budget time.

In aggregate, stocks right throughout the economy at the end of last year are reckoned to have been equivalent to about 45 per cent. of the whole annual national output. Now national output seldom changes by more than about five per cent. yearly, so unpredictable changes in these stocks, even by comparatively small amounts, can cause big pluses or minuses in the change of national output during any given year. There have been years, such as 1960, when a big surge of stockbuilding in factories, stockyards and shops caused a bigger increase in total demand than all our extra consumption, the exports we achieved and the amount we put into fixed capital (and this during an investment boom). For a Chancellor trying to keep a fairly delicate balance between demand throughout the economy and the resources available to supply it—because if the one outpaces the other the price of everything tends to rise—this vast imponderable can be the most troublesome enigma of all.

It is the more risky for his calculations in that a sizeable proportion of the materials that go into stock are imported. When output begins to recover after a period of stagnation, sooner or later manufacturers have to build up from a fairly low level of stocks to a level "normal" not merely for their present level of output, but for the level that they hope to reach as they go on expanding. (It is probable that over a period of time the computer experts can show them how to reduce that "normal" ratio, but that will be a once-for-all saving: it won't necessarily iron out the cyclical pattern.) Typically, therefore, one gets a tendency during a rapid recovery—as in 1963-64—for imports of materials, after a few months of re-expansion, to build up faster than exports, even if Britain is selling well abroad.

In his budget speech last week, looking forward into 1964, Mr Maudling commented: "Stock-to-turnover ratios are still comparatively low and we must be prepared to see stockbuilding continuing at a high rate and, indeed, probably increasing further." But he found it difficult to be more specific: "The level and extent of stockbuilding is notoriously the most volatile and unpredictable element in our economy. While, therefore, we have already seen the effects of the first spurt in stockbuilding, there can be no certainty about what will follow."

This massive and mentally indigestible lump of uncertainty right in the centre of economic growth was one of the main reasons why Mr Maudling this year refused to be as positive about the need for more austere budgeting as some outside economists had advised him to be. The fact is that none of us knows how far the "stockbuilding cycle" has yet progressed. We can be fairly sure that at some point industrialists and distributors will be able to moderate their acceleration of orders to build stocks up to a higher working level, but none of us knows when.

In refusing to get worried about the short-term rise in imports involved in this stockbuilding, Mr Maudling is clearly well-advised, so long as exports go on rising healthily too. To support its internal and external economic operations, Britain has a working stock of two kinds: the reserve of gold and dollars to even out fluctuations in its foreign payments (and those of the large proportion of world trade by other people that is conducted in sterling), and physical stocks of materials to support its industrial operations. Sometimes, when our industry is slack, the currency reserves tend to rise, because imports for production are moderated and because businessmen unable to expand sales at home may push more strongly in export sales. The stock of currency thus goes up; but there tend to be largely corresponding reductions in physical stocks. When the reverse is happening, and industry recovers with a growing demand for imported materials to support higher production, it may happen that our currency reserves slip downwards somewhat. The country is then holding more of its working stocks in materials, and less of them in currency. Provided the changes in currency reserves are not too sharp, so as to arouse international doubts about the stability of sterling, this is a perfectly bearable situation, even for an economy as exposed to world influences as ours.

Nevertheless, nobody trying to manage the British economy can feel happy about the very limited understanding we have of changes in the total size and in the pattern of stocks throughout the economy. There is always a variety of influences working on the myriad stocks held at different points in the economy. When trade rises in the shops, for example, there is a tendency for stocks there and in the wholesale pipeline, at the outset, to be drawn down; at first the same thing happens to the manufacturer's stocks of finished goods. But as he increases output to fulfil the extra orders flowing back to him from the distributors, his stock of "work in progress" will rise: more articles are being worked upon in the factory at any one time. Until he can be sure that this is a lasting rise in demand, he will conversely tend to run down his stocks of materials or components, before ordering more. But once he is convinced trade is generally improving, he is likely to jack up his own rates of orders—upon component makers at home or, ultimately, upon raw materials suppliers abroad.

So at any time a change in demand, upwards or downwards, will cause a sequence of different, and for a time conflicting, changes in the stocks held at the various levels of the economy. When you consider how many manufacturers in Britain are engaged simply in selling components to other manufacturers—how long, in fact, the pipeline may be between the goods we buy and the raw materials, often foreign, from which they are ultimately made—you can realise how difficult it is to interpret what is happening to stocks throughout the economy. Their recording is imperfect and sometimes out of date; but understanding them, even if the data were all perfect and up to date, would be very complex.

The Hotel Europa under construction on the north-east side of Grosvenor Square, London. Due to be opened in June this year, it has a modern interior housed in a Georgian shell, thereby harmonising with the neighbouring architecture. An article on the growth of the hotels industry is overleaf

HOME FROM HOME

A review of British Hotels and Restaurants including some recent important developments

The brief and apt definition of the hotelier's and restaurateur's work was given me recently by one who is himself very much in the centre of the industry. He said that it is to provide a " home from home " to members of the public when it is needed, and that it is domestic housekeeping on a large scale. Basically, this industry provides a service to visitors. The term visitor must be taken in a broad sense, to include not only the visitor to this country from abroad, the all-important tourist, but also the visitor who travels or just eats out in his own country for reasons of business or pleasure.

The two categories cannot be regarded separately, for no hotel or restaurant can provide good service and function satisfactorily while depending solely on one type of client. Nevertheless an efficient hotel industry is a most important asset to a country which wishes to attract tourists, and where tourism is a prominent factor in the economy, as is the case in Britain.

In the war and the years following, with the shortages of every conceivable ingredient of the hotelier's materials and tools, a tremendous strain was put upon this industry. The buildings and equipment were in many cases worn out or out of date, often they were unable to provide the service of food and drink on the internationally expected standard. There was a time when through many complaints—some of them exaggerated or tendentious—the overall reputation of British hotels and restaurants suffered. Tourists, especially those from certain countries, expect a great deal in comfort, service, and the quality of food and drink. The top luxury hotels have always been able to satisfy their limited clientele in this respect, but in recent years travelling abroad has been spreading to much wider strata of populations. Many of these strata do not wish to, or cannot, pay luxury rates. They often expect private bathrooms and other expensive facilities, but are only prepared to pay a modest price.

In recent years far-reaching improvements have been carried out in existing hotels in all parts of Britain at all levels. Even small and simple hotels up and down the country have found that they can let their rooms more easily with private bathrooms. Although there are no official figures available, it is safe to estimate that the number of private bathrooms is increasing at a rapid and steady rate. This appears to be a very necessary improvement for, in spite of the great progress made, one of our largest groups of first class hotels with thousands of bedrooms has considerably less than one private bathroom for every two bedrooms.

Food and drink are a considerable part of hotel services and revenue, and improvements in this field are perhaps the most noticeable and extensive. Many establishments have modernised their kitchens, involving expensive rebuilding and much new, more up-to-date equipment. Many also have spent much money and thought on making their dining rooms and restaurants more attractive as well as more efficient. This is not all. While one can still find indifferent food beautifully served in attractively decorated and lit premises, the average standard of quality of materials, and the skill and imagination in preparation has also been improving, and our poor reputation, especially in this respect abroad, now has no foundation.

New hotel construction to replace outdated and outmoded buildings, and to satisfy the increasing demand for more accommodation was slow to get started. It is now in full swing in many parts of the country, including London. It appears that in London, especially, the new demand for more accommodation is not so much for the luxury type, but for the good first class, and even second class, hotels. Several groups, including some American international ones, have opened new hotels in London in recent years, and there are a few more under construction to be opened this year or next. None of these, with the exception of the Americans which are inside the border of the luxury class, aims at being beyond a good, first class hotel, offering nearly the same amenities as the luxury class, at more moderate prices. I am thinking of places like the recently opened St. George's Hotel (Trust Houses), the larger Europa (Grand Metropolitan Hotels) to be opened shortly and the 500-room Royal Garden (Oddenino Group) to be opened next year. With high land values and building costs in London, this is only possible by better and more efficient planning, organisation and control, so that one of the most expensive parts of running costs, labour, can be reduced. It appears that the only difference between luxury and these new hotels is in the smaller number of staff in relation to the number of guests. But the quality of service does not suffer unduly.

There has been a tendency for the growth of hotel-owning groups, some large and some small, some old, and some recently developed. There are obvious economic advantages in operating hotels in groups—in management, buying and in some cases in seasonal distribution of staffs. Out of the 4,250 members of the British Hotels and Restaurants Association last year 1,490 were members of groups. Grand Metropolitan Hotels, claiming the largest number of hotels in London, Trust Houses with over 200 in Britain and British Transport Hotels with 34 hotels are the three biggest groups. Brewers have increased their hotel interests in the past few years, the most notable example of this is the Ind Coope-Ansells group. *continued on page 140*

Right: The tall block of the London Hilton in Park Lane, part of the world-wide chain of American hotels **Below:** An impression of The Imperial, Torquay, as it will appear when the present modernisation scheme is complete. This view is from the south west

Left: The restaurant of the new St. George's Hotel (Trust Houses) in Langham Place is on the 14th storey and has a view of London from 140 ft. above street level. The walls are white marble with decorative bands of gold anodised aluminium and panels of Thai silk

Below left: An architect's drawing of the Royal Garden Hotel under construction at the east end of Kensington High Street and the corner of Kensington Gardens. Belonging to the Oddenino Group, it opens in 1965

Bottom left: The roof of Forte's Motel near Oxford. It is to open in June

Bottom: The main lobby and bar of the newly opened Forte's Airport Hotel at London Airport. In the left background is the hall porter's lodge and the reception desk

Below: The residents' lounge at the Wessex Hotel, in Winchester, opened by Trust Houses Ltd. in February. The large picture window looks out on to Winchester Cathedral. Trust Houses Ltd. control over 200 hotels

HOME FROM HOME

continued from page 138

140 Other large concerns previously mainly engaged as restaurateurs, J. Lyons and, more recently, Forte, have invaded the hotel field most successfully. As a contrast, one of the few individually owned hotels in the very top category, The Imperial, of Torquay, is currently engaged in a five-year scheme to modernise completely its 100-year-old building, at the same time increasing the number of its luxury rooms from 165 to 250. The ingenious scheme is unique, inasmuch as the work is carried out without interruption to business.

Specialised hotels are coming on the scene. There is the recent addition by Forte with 300 rooms to the two previously existing at London Airport. The number of motels, although some progress has been made, has not increased as rapidly in this country as elsewhere. Restaurants have been developed tremendously, and many new ideas introduced. The large firms such as Lyons and Forte have had success with their new establishments which only offer limited menus with open kitchens and quick, efficient service. Here again conditions have produced the need for new, specialised eating places and in one such development, catering on Motorways, the existing firms have been joined by a new group in the field, the "Top Rank" group which has produced some attractive and ambitious schemes.

The noticeable development in the restaurant field, apart from the overall, greatly improved standards, is the immense growth of the small, individual restaurant. More and more people are getting the eating-out habit, and even areas outside London are producing good, small restaurants developed by young, go-ahead people. This greater interest in good food all over the country offers wide scope for the enterprising. The basic materials are the best in the world as regards meat, fish, vegetables and wines. The limitation which so often leads to compromise is the price. Many people are still reluctant to pay the right price for really good food, but the time is rapidly approaching when they will be ready to appreciate its value, afford the time to eat and the money to pay for it.

The industry has two problems in view of its continued growth. One is staffing. This is gradually being overcome by increased and improved training facilities for management and workers in all departments. There are today 140 schools providing full- or part-time training. Of these about 40 will take their students to the highest level in all departments. Shorter courses are available, and there is a national diploma, mainly for cooking. On educational matters the Ministry of Education co-operates with the bodies representing the hotel industry. The other problem is the absence of government financial assistance in the industry's efforts to make itself more efficient by modernisation and improvement.

It is felt that the current high operating costs, maintenance and taxation allow insufficient margin for capital expenditure, especially in the case of the smaller hotels. The BHRA, on behalf of the whole industry as well as its own members, has prepared a memorandum listing the fiscal measures which it considers essential, and which are available to hoteliers in many other countries. It suggests loans and grants for works of improvement and capital allowances similar to those granted to "industrial" buildings. Hoteliers are also asking for a reduction or abolition on purchase tax on their very expendable domestic equipment.

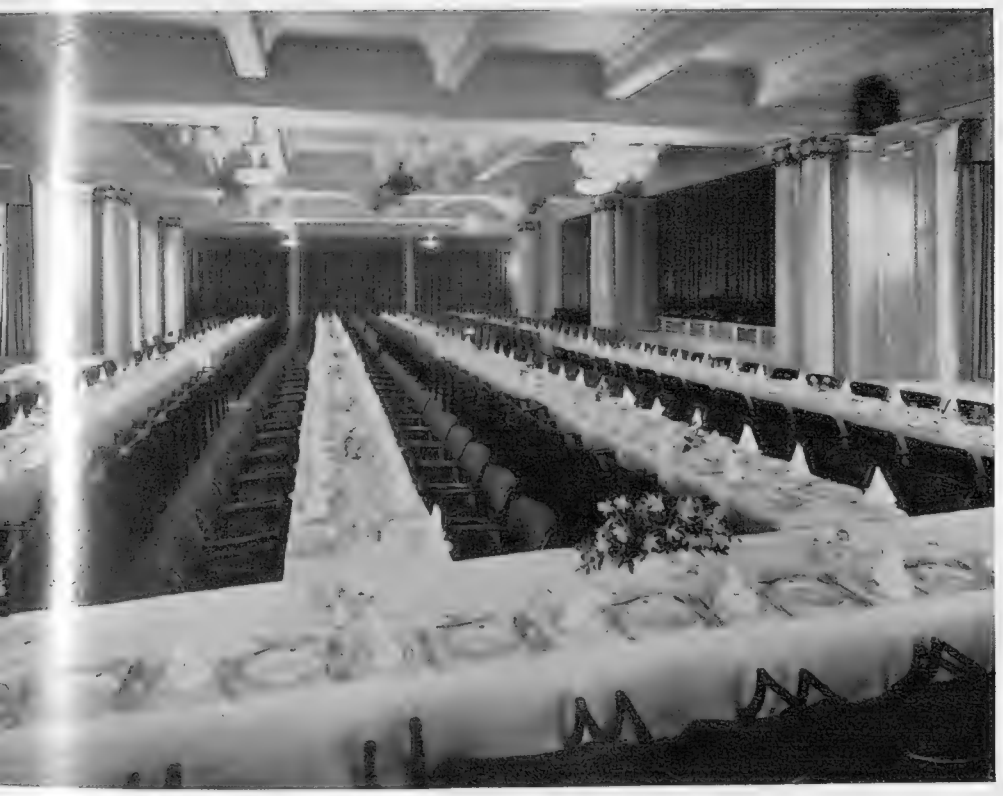
Above: A Top Rank project to cater for drivers on the Preston-Lancaster Motorway

Left: The grill room at the Café Royal in Regent Street, London. During recent years a number of structural alterations have been made to various parts of the building

Right: The restaurant at the Albany Hotel in Birmingham which was opened in 1962. It was Birmingham's first new hotel for 100 years. The Albany, with 250 rooms, is one of the Strand group

Far right: The French Restaurant in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. This is one of 33 hotels (with 4,257 rooms) controlled by British Transport Hotels

Below: The ballroom of the London Hilton in use as a car showroom by the Rover Car Company when the firm launched the Rover 2000. Company promotions and trade displays are a growing use of large hotel facilities



Above: The terrace of the Welcombe Hotel outside Stratford-upon-Avon

Above left: The Banqueting Hall of the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate. In recent years there has been a steady growth in the demand for banqueting facilities throughout the country

Left: One of the new rooms at the Westbury Hotel in London

Centre left: The entrance of the Skyway Hotel near London Airport

Far left: The Conference Office at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne. This hotel has about 50 conferences a year

Right: Ernest Prunster, the manager of the Westbury Hotel Restaurant which has a new decor in red and black that was inspired by the Dorothy Draper Company of New York

RUNS AND STOCKINGS

by The Sphere City Correspondent

142 Possibly the most startling new issue success on the Stock Market this year has been a little firm called Contour Hosiery. The aim and object of Contour's life is to sell modestly priced nylon stockings to Woolworths. And for less than £500,000 worth of its shares, an eager public was happy to subscribe over £38 million.

Two years ago, it is fair to say, you could probably not have given the shares away with a pound of tea. Some of the most famous names in the industry—Aristoc, Ballito, Bear Brand—were slashing their dividends, after profits that had slumped sometimes more than 50 per cent. in 12 months. Seam-free stockings, which we couldn't make, were pouring in from Italy at prices which we couldn't match. Altogether hosiery looked like the classical example of an industry which had got things wrong.

What a different picture today. The mills round Hinckley and Leicester and Nottingham are booming away, working right round the clock. The Italians have been routed. Imports, which in 1962 took a quarter of the market, have dropped back to a trickle. Chairman after chairman has produced cracking good figures, backed with ever more confident forecasts for the future. And even the customer has benefited—the average price of an elegant, British-made nylon has dropped to around 3s 11d a pair, thus significantly lowering the female cost-of-living index.

The story is an interesting one—and distinctly relevant to other industries under pressure from better, cheaper, more efficient overseas manufacturers. The stocking makers' first reaction, naturally, was to call for protection. The Italians, they said, must be dumping. There was dark talk about sweated peasant girls in Florentine villages, and cheap Calabrian labour, living on a handful of rice (or was that Hong Kong?). And, inevitably, there were impassioned calls to the Board of Trade to slap on a prohibitive tariff (even though the Italians were already surmounting a 33⅓ per cent. barrier). If British stocking firms could not make 1s 11d nylons, then British girls should naturally be denied the chance of buying them.

Fortunately, the Board of Trade turned a deaf ear to all this. And the industry then, very smartly, set about putting its own house in order. A high-powered study group from Hinckley set off for Italy to get the facts. And the first thing they discovered was that there was no dumping and no sweated labour. Far from being cottage concerns, the Italian stocking-makers had some of the biggest, most modern, and most intensively run factories in the world, and they worked them full out—with two girls to 25 four-feed knitting machines—for 24 hours a day.

Back home British students put these findings squarely before the hosiery workers union. "We will make the necessary heavy investment in advanced machinery," they said, "if you will agree to work them as hard as the Italians." And finally, after a lot of argument, the union recognised the urgency of the situation, and agreed to play.

The results have been tonic. And from a depressed area of trade, stockings have jumped right back into the growth league.

The growth has always been there, of course. Retail stocking sales have gone up from £70 million in 1959 to £100 million last year, against a background of costs which have actually fallen (principally because nylon itself has been getting progressively cheaper). This, of course, is well ahead of Neddy's 4 per cent. rate for the whole economy. And now that the hosiery firms have sorted themselves out, there look to be distinctly attractive investment opportunities.

Bear Brand and Kayser Bondor (cushioned against the worst fashion swings by a 50 per cent. stake in lingerie) are probably the market leaders, with Aristoc and Pretty Polly (a subsidiary of the Thomas Tilling group) close behind. All these should share in the current wave of prosperity.

Contour itself managed to avoid the worst of the Italian crisis (Woolworths, their customer, had some bad experiences on Italian quality and decided to buy only British, as long as their suppliers could get the price right. And it was well worth Contour's while to do this, before some of their bigger competitors got the message). [At 5·6 per cent., their yield is lower than anyone else in the section and, although they are outstandingly well managed, their "recovery prospects" are obviously not as great as some of the others.

Two pairs of nylon makers

	Price	Yield %	Times covered
Aristoc	15s 9d	6·7	1·9
Kayser Bondor	13s 7½d	7·2	2·0
Bear Brand	8s 1½d	8·3	*
Contour	11s 6d	5·6	2·0

* Awaiting full report.

HOME FROM HOME

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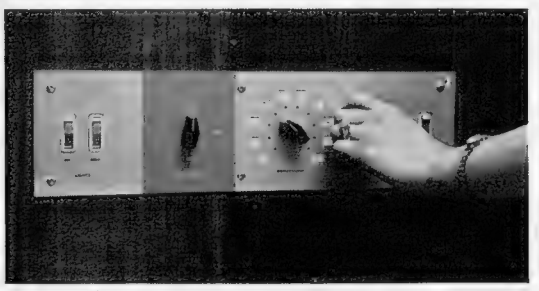

Above: The kitchens of the Garden House Hotel in Birmingham
Left: Consideration for the comfort and convenience of guests is shown in the design of this bedside control panel for lights, radio, TV and air conditioning The panel is installed in all 304 bedrooms at the new Airport Hotel

Above: Miss Ruth Lee, the proprietress, preparing a meal in the kitchen of the Crown Inn at Westleton near Saxmundham in Suffolk. The restaurant has accommodation for 60 people. Special dishes not on the menu can be ordered at least 24 hours in advance. The Crown has five bedrooms

Right: Instruction in progress in the dining room of the Scottish Hotel School. The raising of standards is closely connected with the training of staff. There are now increased training facilities for management and workers in all departments throughout the industry

MIDLANDS MATTERS

by The Sphere Midlands Correspondent

Mr G. A. Sheppard Fidler, who has been one of Birmingham's outstanding City Architects, returns to private practice in London next month. He will leave behind him many memorials to his high qualities, and those of his staff, in the shape of skilfully and pleasantly redeveloped areas of the city where once stood so many of its infamous back-to-back houses and dark little workshops. But there is one section of redevelopment over which he might perhaps have wished to exercise his broad talents to a greater degree, and might have done so had he been involved early enough or the timing been different.

The Inner Ring Road project, now at the half-way stage, and whose crown is—though perhaps only temporarily—the Bull Ring Centre, is the greatest achievement of another outstanding servant of the city, now retired, Sir Herbert Manzoni. The project brings to fruition a 30-year-old dream of the former City Engineer and Surveyor. No doubt had Sir Herbert been able to shape it ideally to future needs it would have turned out somewhat different. But the great need was to make a start and, the Government having made a start possible, it was decided, probably wisely, not to delay matters by another three or four years in preparing and pushing through another Parliamentary Bill. Thus Mr Sheppard Fidler was not able to influence the course of the scheme as he might have liked to, and in gentle chaff he has been known to refer to it as " an engineer's scheme."

Such is the pace of things that no two officers, however brilliant, are any longer regarded as either pre-eminent or sufficient in planning new communities. The specialised traffic engineer and the social planner have also to be consulted and the trend is more and more towards a new type who will combine their virtues—an environmental engineer. Mr Sheppard Fidler is to be succeeded by Mr John R. Sheridan-Shedden, who in the four years since he left the Birmingham department has gained a considerable reputation as City Architect of Leeds. Interestingly, he will be responsible to the House Building, and not to the General Purposes Committee of the council, thus acknowledging the emphasis on local authority house building.

Mr Sheridan-Shedden, who is 50, is well equipped to deal with the city's community needs. He came to Birmingham after a spell as assistant architect to the Harlow New Town Education Department, and by the time he was appointed to Leeds had risen to be Mr Sheppard Fidler's deputy.

While on the subject of housing, Mr Sheppard Fidler made an interesting point at the " Speed the Houses " conference in Birmingham, organised by the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors. (The first of its kind, it attracted more than 600 delegates from local authorities and builders in the United Kingdom.) Many have condemned industrialised building systems, which the conference was discussing, out of hand (sometimes justly) for their ugliness and lack of character. A great increase in system building is a prospect which fills a good many with despondency.

But Mr Sheppard Fidler pointed out that it did not mean the death of architecture. Methods and materials did not in themselves create good architecture, but then neither did they induce bad. " The traditionally based programme," he commented, " proves the truth of this." Certainly the variety of systems now available should be able to produce something better than has already been seen. There are about 20 industrialised building systems already available, and scores of others in the pipeline. Some, inevitably, will die (several will not be missed) but those that survive should be pleasing architecturally as well as providing building efficiency of a high order.

One of the latest, incidentally, is adapted to a design of Mr Sheppard Fidler—that of Rigid Frame Construction (Stourport). At one site, in spite of losing ten men from the labour force, the erection above the damp course of 17 houses and ten garages will still be completed in the planned 16 weeks. The chairman of the local House Building Committee has pronounced that the first completed has already drawn encouraging reports from technical officers.

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INFLUX OF FOREIGN CARS

144 British motorists have been hearing a lot lately about imported cars. Sweden's Saab, a two-stroke, 3-cylinder car which is gaining in popularity in the United Kingdom, received valuable publicity in this country when Erik Carlsson drove one into second place in the East African Safari Rally.

Then Czechoslovakia's Octavia hit the headlines with price reductions which brought the 1100 model down to £500, including tax (a drop of £22) and the Combi estate car down to £584 (a cut of £38). Now we have Sweden's Volvo group starting production in a new £15 million plant at Torslanda, ten miles from the heart of Gothenburg.

It is the Swedish group's biggest-ever investment and the largest industrial building in the whole of Scandinavia. It stands on a 1,000-acre site: Swedish industry's biggest. Designed on the most modern lines, the Torslanda plant has a production capacity of 110,000 cars a year with one daytime shift or 200,000 with full two-shift working.

I inspected this plant recently and was impressed not only by its spaciousness and cleverly designed layout but also by the provision which has been made for future expansion without any risk of interference with current production.

Mr Per Eriksson, sales director, told me that in planning the new factory, Volvo were as much concerned with improving their already high standards of quality as with increasing output, which has risen from 10,000 cars in 1950 to 107,000 last year, with an estimated production of 120,000 in 1964. Britain—which, like Sweden, is a member of EFTA—is one of many markets in which Volvo hope to increase sales substantially. Last year 2,500 Volvos were sold here and the estimate for 1964 is between 3,500 and 4,000.

I was told there is no intention of cutting back the high proportion of imported components used in the assembly of Volvo cars and representing around half the cost of each car. This is good news for Britain, which is the biggest foreign supplier of Volvo parts, including brakes, clutches, door locks, back axles, wheels and carburetters. The name Volvo is based on the Latin verb to roll; meaning the motion of the wheels, of course, and not any tendency by this fine car to turn over. It is, in fact, one of the most roadworthy cars produced in Europe.

Camping and caravanning

It looks like being a bumper year for camping and caravanning holidays. In recent years there has been a striking increase in the popularity of open-air touring which, apart from being great fun for those who like it, makes a family independent of hotels and restaurants.

You can go camping with either a tent (and the paraphernalia that goes with it); a caravan hitched behind your car; or in a motor caravan (which can be hired if you don't want to buy one outright). I have just had a long talk about the growing vogue of motor caravanning with the biggest dealer in Britain in this kind of vehicle.

He is Mr Leslie Wilson, managing director of a London firm—the Wilson Motor Caravan Co.—who are agents for every make of British motor caravan, including, of course, Dormobile, Bluebird, Caravette and Paralanian. He told me that families with young children are becoming increasingly attracted to nomadic holidays in spite of the fact that it costs more to hire a motor caravan—anything from £30 a week upwards—than many people realise.

He does not think many people are going to be discouraged by a recent report by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* on six different motor caravans, in the course of which it made the surprising statement that "A motor caravan faces an impossible problem. It must try to provide a reasonable car and be a sitting room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom all rolled into one." *Which?* suggests that rather than buy a motor caravan, customers should hire one.

Surely it depends on the use a particular family wants to make of it. And I don't suppose for a moment that any reasonable motorist would expect other than a compromise in performance and accommodation.

Here is a point to bear in mind if you are planning an open-air holiday on the Continent this year . . . the Townsend Ferry offers reduced rates for caravans in the *Free Enterprise* on their Dover-Calais run. They relate to all sailings from Dover at 4.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. and from Calais at 1.30 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. (except on a few of the busier days in July and August). The reduced rates range from 30s for an 8 ft. caravan to £17 for a 30-footer.

A lure to Baden-Baden

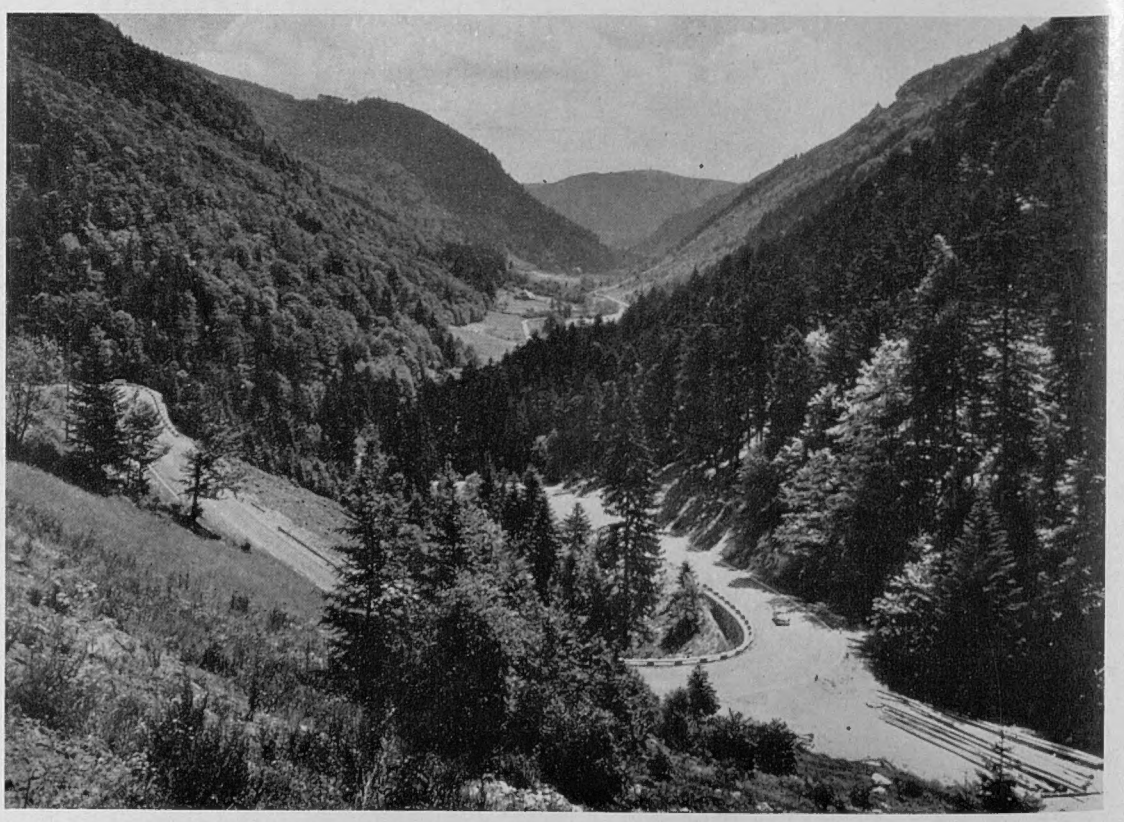
I have news for motorists who are contemplating a car tour of Germany's Black Forest. When he was in London the other day, Herr Hans Seydel, chief executive of the spa administration at Baden-Baden (situated on the northern edge of the Forest) told me that several leading hotels are offering reductions of 15 per cent. on their normal inclusive pension terms in July and October for visits of at least five days.

I mention this simply because Baden-Baden is a fine centre for exploring the Black Forest by car as well as having many attractions of its own, including health cures and a gay social life. It is only a few miles off Germany's main north-south autobahn and is connected to it by a motorway of its own. Baden-Baden was, in fact, the first German town to have an autobahn leading right into its very centre.

The famous German spa is less than an hour's drive from Strasbourg, one of the terminals of British United's long-range car ferry services from Lydd and Southend. You can read all about these "deep penetration" ferry services (by four-engined Carvairs carrying five cars and 22 passengers) in *Baden-Baden* a pleasant little book by Harold Rose, the travel writer, published in Alvin Redman's Town Guide Series at 12s 6d.

Mr Rose gives a good deal of information about motoring in Germany, including this little gem: "Travellers on motorcycles and mopeds should note that riding side-saddle is not allowed. . . ." Who cares? It's only in Italy where the girls are capable of gladdening male eyes by gracefully—if precariously—riding side-saddle with billowing dresses.

The motoring enthusiast may like to be reminded that Germany's international rally starts from Baden-Baden this year and that Stuttgart, home of two famous *marques* of car—Mercedes-Benz and Porsche—is only 50 miles away.



Fine roads wind through the valleys of the Black Forest in southern Germany. Many converge on Baden-Baden

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IN QUEST OF GOOD HOTELS

ADVICE BY ASHLEY COURTENAY

Letters, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope for reply, should be addressed to him c/o The Editor, THE SPHERE, *Ingram House, 13-15, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.*

OPERATIONAL WORD—TREES. A Canadian reader of this column living on the wide open prairie, tells me that he hopes to revisit Britain this year, and craves for, above all else, an hotel bedroom window each night where he can look upon trees. He gave me *carte blanche* authority to plan his itinerary, though he certainly erected a stiff hurdle in my planning when he stipulated that one of the first places he wished to visit was Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain!

As disembarkation from any type of ship is a matter of time and tide, it would seem sound advice for him to spend his first night on British soil in a New Forest hotel. There's half a dozen or more that could be well recommended but the selection on this occasion must be *Parkhill Hotel*, a mile outside Lyndhurst and only ten miles from Southampton, because in that entertaining book *Here's England*, first published in 1951, the two American authors Ruth McKenney and Richard Branston wrote " One of the reasons we recommended *Parkhill* is its strategic position, within easy reach of Winchester with its Cathedral and the Hospital of St. Cross, Salisbury, Old Sarum and Stonehenge." Whether one makes *Parkhill* one's base for a night or nights it's a good initial choice for, without being too hotel like, all modern comforts are available. Further, James Hargreaves and his wife are excellent dispensers of British hospitality.

As overseas visitors are usually early risers, a morning embracing Winchester, Salisbury and Stonehenge should provide time for making *Savernake Forest Hotel*, five miles south of Marlborough, for lunch. Hundreds of Marlburians past and present know this landmark (on the edge of Savernake Forest). How quiet and secluded it is. Built about a century ago by the then Marquis of Ailesbury, it was for 80 years leased by one family and they maintained throughout the hotel all the Victorian characteristics of a past era. Today the frontage remains as hitherto, but within, a transformation has been effected by the present owners Dr and Mrs R. R. B. Roberts. On the March morning we called, the warmth of central heating, rich red carpeting, a homely lunch and the personal touch proved welcoming notes.

Moving on via Marlborough and along the Bath Road his next objective should be Malmesbury in order to view the ancient Abbey Church and call in for a real English pot of tea at the friendly *Bath Arms* adjoining. Only eight miles farther on is Westonbirt near Tetbury where I would strongly advise the attractive *Hare and Hounds Hotel* for the night for, apart from a surety of good food and comfort, next door is the famous Arboretum.

It is never a good idea to plot one's itinerary too strictly as nothing is more annoying than to have to press on to reach a given destination, so the *Bath Arms* at Malmesbury or the *Hare and Hounds* at Westonbirt would make an excellent base for some of the delightful Cotswold country that lies around. Within the compass of a leisurely day one can make a circuit covering Amberley, Stroud, Cranham Woods, tree-lined Cheltenham, Northleach, Bibury and Cirencester.

The next stage on my suggested itinerary is via Chipping Sodbury over the ferry from Aust to Chepstow. Most tourists tend after visiting the spectacular ruins of Tintern Abbey to make straight for Monmouth, but I stress that all tree lovers should turn off right for Coleford and so to the *Speech House Hotel* right in the midst of the Forest of Dean. Eat here, sleep here, see around here, for apart from the surrounding forest, features of the hotel are the rooms with four-poster beds, and the dining room is the original court room of the Verderers of the Forest and still used by them.

Continuing through the forest, the road leads down to the *Royal Hotel* at Symonds Yat, a fascinating spot, well recommended for food and comfort and where our Canadian friend can experience, if he so fancies, shooting the rapids of the Wye. Ross-on-Wye and up the Wye Valley to Hereford, is the next portion of the itinerary and for an hotel for the night, choice can be made between the country-house hotel, *Pengethley*, by Owens Cross, or farther on, but a mile and a bit outside Hereford, another country house in a peaceful setting, *The Graftonbury*. At either, the trees in the grounds are likely to sing their nightly lullaby. There are few more wooded and scenic drives than the one from Hereford via Ledbury (*The Feathers Hotel*) to the Malverns—from the latter, are spectacular views (recommended hotels are *Foley Arms* and the *Montrose*).

If it is fruit blossom time, a better route might be Hereford, Leominster, Tenbury Wells, Abberley, Worcester, Evesham, Broadway, for given a fine day the Teme Valley and the Vale of Evesham beggars description. In either case, Broadway is an obvious halt on our journey, so choose from the internationally famous *Lygon Arms* or the smaller but quite delightful *Broadway Hotel*.

Where next do we head for? Clearly the focal point for every overseas visitor to Britain is Stratford-on-Avon. Shakespeare is, of course, the principle character, but let it not be overlooked that in leafy Warwickshire there is a wealth of attractions, and so centrally situated is Stratford-on-Avon that it may be as well, as lineage is running short, to " Halt Awhile " and to ask our Canadian friend two vital questions: (i) How much time has he to spare in Britain and (ii) where, other than Stonehenge, does he wish to go?

So while we, in imagination, are staying in Stratford-on-Avon awaiting his answer (our hotel recommendations are *The Welcombe* in its own parkland, *Alveston Manor*, shielded by trees, or the *Shakespeare Hotel*—a Trust House) it is an appropriate moment to consider other hotels, where trees dominate the outlook. Many, apart from their own virtues, have a special appeal to tree lovers and especially:—

Somerset.—*Alfoxton Park Hotel*, Nr. Holford, approached through woodlands and set at the foot of the Quantock Hills. Devon.—*Gidleigh Park Hotel*, Chagford. Go into the square of this small market town and ask your way, for it is tucked away among trees and babbling brooks.

BATH, Somerset. **LANSDOWN GROVE HOTEL**
Standing in its own beautiful grounds, distinctly individual, with an appeal to all irrespective of age. Every comfort and excellent cuisine. Delightful cocktail bar and grill room. Week-end dancing. Garage. Tel.: 5891.

BOURNEMOUTH WEST. **BOURNE HALL HOTEL**
In a key position for sea, shops and shows and with moderate terms. Private baths, lift, delightful garden, hard tennis courts, billiards. Games Room and Ballroom. Lock-up garages. Tel.: Westbourne 63333.

BOURNEMOUTH. **LINDEN HALL HOTEL**
Caters for *every* member of the family, whatever the months. Superb indoor heated swimming pool and squash courts (resident instructors), billiards, ballroom, games room, tennis. 120 bedrooms, suites and private bathrooms.
Conference Secretaries note. Tel.: Bournemouth 33533.

WESTONBIRT, Nr. TETBURY, GLOS. **HARE & HOUNDS**
A rather special Cotswolds hotel. Tennis, Squash, Golf. Near Wild Fowl Trust. Suitable small conferences. Tel.: 233.

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NR. LEWES (3 miles east). **RINGMER HOTEL**
Close South Downs for walking, riding and Glyndebourne (1 mile). Rosette Food and Wine of distinction. Charming well appointed bedrooms with private bathrooms. Tel.: Ringmer 348.

LLANDUDNO, N. Wales. **ST. GEORGE'S HOTEL**
Up-to-date and in the first flight of seaside hotels of the 'sixties. Best for comfort, cuisine, entertainment. Tel.: 77544.

LYTHAM, Lancashire. **CLIFTON ARMS**
A sea-front hotel in the luxury class. Grill room. Cocktail Bar, excellent cuisine, service. Private baths, First-class golf. Tel.: 6245.

MULLION, S. CORNWALL. **POLDHU HOTEL**
for summer holidays (mid-week bookings accepted). Overlooking sandy cove. Safe bathing. Holiday Golf. Private Baths. Tennis. Billiards. T.V. Fresh farm produce. Licensed. Tel.: 339.

RAVENSCAR, NR. SCARBOROUGH. **RAVEN HALL**
A self-contained, fully licensed holiday hotel with swimming pool, golf, putting, tennis, bowls, billiards, dancing (Orchestra), cinema, TV. Tel.: Cloughton 233.

SALCOMBE, South Devon. **TIDES REACH HOTEL**
* * * Rosette for outstanding food and wine. Private baths, balconies, safe bathing, boating, fishing. Adults only. Tel.: 2888.

SIDMOUTH, Devon. **THE BELMONT**
A first-class hotel with fine sea-front position and reputation for catering, elegant comfort and service. Many bedrooms with communicating bathrooms. Lift. Fully Licensed. Tel.: 1555.

STORRINGTON, Sussex. **ABINGWORTH HALL**
Delightful country house comfort with beautiful garden. Tennis court. Close Golf & Downs. Ground floor bedrooms. Dogs accepted. Licensed. Tel.: W. Chiltington 2257.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. **THE BEAR OF RODBOROUGH**
Ideally situated in the Cotswolds. First class cuisine, cellar and cocktail bar. Close Gloucester, Cheltenham. Golf nearby. Tel.: Amberley 3122.

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